

# THE VALLEY FARMER.

A Monthly Journal of Agriculture, Horticulture, Education, and Domestic Economy:  
Adapted to the wants of the people of the Mississippi Valley.

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## THE VALLEY FARMER.

E. K. WOODWARD AND E. ABBOTT,

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EPHRAIM ABBOTT, Editor.

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### THE CROPS, AND SOME OTHER MATTERS.

We congratulate our readers upon the indications which now present themselves of an abundant harvest and a profitable season for the agriculturists of the West. From all parts of the country we hear encouraging news of the appearance of the wheat crop, and of the indications that there will be an abundance of fruit, and so far the spring has been remarkably propitious for all the labors of the husbandman.

We this year see no calling off of the young and

active men of the land from the farm and the workshop to the tented field, and the bloody battle ground; no feverish excitement about politics; no maddening anxiety and ruinous sacrifices—desertions of families and abandonment of productive farms and business—to seek for gold in the far off regions of the Pacific. All these things are among the things that have passed away, and many of those who for money, or honor, or a patriotic desire to defend the honor of our beloved country, have left homes and farms in neglect and unimprovement, are returning, and with resolute hearts and strong hands are addressing themselves to the work of building up the "waste places." The industrial power of the west will be greatly augmented this year, and if the season continues as favorable as it has commenced the amount of produce raised will far exceed that of any previous year.

One of the most encouraging signs of a better state of things is the fact that a greatly increased spirit of inquiry and desire for information is manifesting itself among the people; that they are not satisfied with the old fashioned ways and tools of the olden time, but that improvement and progress are the order of the day.

New systems are adopted, new implements are introduced, and men begin to find that much as they may know there is something yet for them to learn.

And the VALLEY FARMER is beginning to be appreciated and recognized as no inefficient ally in the work of rural advancement and improvement. We want no better indication of the prosperity, intelligence and enterprise of an agricultural community than the fact that they support and appreciate the publications devoted to their interests.

—o—  
A letter from a mercantile house in Richmond, Va., estimates that to the 31st of March the quantity of tobacco expected to reach the market during the year, will fall short by above 6,500 of that heretofore expected.

For the Valley Farmer.

### GERMINATION PROMOTED BY DRAINING.

MR. EDITOR,—It is a lamentable fact that no class of society is so tardy in benefitting by the improvements of the day as the "tillers of the earth." This, I believe, arises from the fact that no branch of industry is so intimately connected with science, and no one is so deplorably negligent of its teachings. I propose through your valuable paper calling the attention of Agriculturists and Horticulturists to a few of the facts connected with the germination, growth, and maturation of plants, as taught us by Chemistry and Vegetable Physiology, and pointing out the necessity of bringing to our aid these facts.

Every seed is an organized body, and possesses a dormant vitality, which requires certain stimuli to bring it into action. These are heat, moisture and oxygen. We have a striking instance of the truth of this statement in the history of what is known as the Egyptian Wheat, which had its origin in a grain found in the wrappings of an Egyptian mummy lately unrolled. This grain of wheat must have maintained its dormant state of vitality for centuries. The vital stimuli, heat, moisture, and oxygen, were excluded, and the chemical affinities necessary to arouse it to actual life were not brought into play.

The necessity of these stimuli is then evident—in fact, it may be stated as a fixed maxim, that no vital action is spontaneous.

Every one is aware that when his seeds are put into the earth, if it is wet and cold, they will not germinate. The reason of this is apparent, if we turn to the phenomena of germination, recollecting the facts already stated, that seeds are organized, possess dormant vitality, and require certain stimuli to arouse this dormant life. Throw a quantity of moist grain into a heap, and then expose it to the influence of the air and the heat of the sun. In a few days you find it warm, and the germs begin to put forth. Why is this?—Chemical changes have been commenced under the influence of heat, moisture, and oxygen. The oxygen of the atmosphere has been uniting with the carbon and hydrogen of the grain, which is a species of combustion, and heat was the result. The germ of the plant thus aroused from its state of dormant vitality by the genial warmth, puts forth a "thing of life." These changes are necessary in germination, and it cannot take place without it. *They are laws of nature.*

If, instead of simply moistening your grain, you throw it into a tub of water, and expose it to the same influences, decomposition takes place. The dense texture of the water prevents the free admission of oxygen from the atmosphere—the excess of water, which is a powerful cooling agent, prevents the necessary warmth to bring into play the chemical changes, and the dormant germ of the plant is chilled into a "thing of death."

Let us see if draining will promote these changes: The object of draining is to get rid of an excess of water. What do you accomplish in this? Every one knows that when water is permitted to stand upon his land, it becomes close and compact in texture, and of course impermeable to fluids and gases. Remove the cause, and the effect will cease. Your land will become light, porous and permeable. The water falling upon it will be absorbed and carried off by your ditches, and the oxygen of the atmosphere will pass freely through it and come in contact with your seeds. You not only get clear of an excess of water, and permit the access of oxygen, but you raise the temperature of your soil. This is accomplished in two ways:—

1. Porous bodies (being bad radiators) retain their heat much longer than dense ones. The rays of the sun during the day warms your land, but when night comes it begins to cool by radiation, and if it is compact, soon loses all that it has gained; but if it is porous it cools slowly and retains the warmth of yesterday, to be added to the new supply of to-day.

2. In removing water from i you remove a most powerful cooling agent. One of the laws of nature is, that when a body is changed from a rare to a denser state, heat is evolved; but when from a dense to a rarer state, heat is absorbed and becomes latent. Now water is continually undergoing evaporation, and hence heat becomes latent—cold is the result. Water is also a bad conductor of heat, and hence prevents your land from becoming warm, and if it should become warm, it is one of the best radiators, and thus soon cools it again.

So that by a proper draining you bring into play the influence of heat—a most powerful vital stimulus—the action of oxygen—necessary in the germination and growth of plants, and get clear of the deleterious effects of an excess of moisture. The importance, then, of paying attention to these facts is evident. Your seeds, brought under the influence of the proper vital stimuli, germinate without interruption. Th

natural functions of the plant are stimulated and brought into action, and every thing proceeds in harmony with the laws of Nature.

R. DICKENS WEBB, M. D.

161 North Fourth street, St. Louis.

### THE CURCULIO.

Intelligent and observing horticulturists seem as much as ever in the dark as to the best means of protecting the fruit of the plum tree from the ravages of this annoying insect. We recognize in the following letter, which we copy from the Western Horticultural Review, the pen of one of our most successful fruit-growers, whose exertions to obtain correct information on the subject upon which he writes, have been very unremitting :

St. Louis, February, 1821.

MR. EDITOR: By inserting the following you may perhaps save some one the time, expense and disappointment I have experienced in the last four or five years, in following out the hundred and one remedies in guarding against the attacks of the Curculio.

Last year I varied my mode of warfare by spreading a thick coat of cement on the grounds under thirty-five plum trees, extending it to the full size of the tops of the tree. As soon as the plum made its appearance from the blossom, say about the 10th of May, I commenced jarring the trees every morning and evening, and continued to do so, until the 1st of August, and as the insects fell upon the cement, killed them. The first three weeks, the average number was not far from fifty per day. From the 1st of June to the 20th, nearly one hundred per day; after which time they gradually diminished.

Now for the result: From the thirty-five plum trees, comprising fifteen different varieties, I saved only about two bushels.

It is argued by many that this insect has great instinctive powers, and will not deposit its egg, where the fallen fruit is likely to encounter a pavement.

I know nothing about your eastern or northern Curculios, but I can assure you, Mr. Editor, no such repugnance is felt or known by this insect in Missonri, and further, that no pavement ever invented, where Curculios are numerous will guard against their attacks, unless extended to every fruit tree in the garden or orchard. It is

wholly inconsistent with the nature and habits of this insect, to suppose that paving under a few trees will protect the fruit, while others, near by, are unpaved, for the simple reason that the Curculio attacks nearly every description of fruit. The nectarine and plum are their favorites, but the apple, pear, peach, apricot, cherry and grape are all subject to their attacks, and all serve absolutely as a means of reproduction.

I have taken the above mentioned fruits separately, placed each in different boxes of earth, and from four to six weeks the change from larva to the perfect Curculio would be complete.

There are three distinct species of this insect, one smaller, the other larger than the plum Curculio. The small one is nearly round, about half the size of the plum Curculio, and is mostly found upon grapes. The other is full a half size larger with a smooth shell and are not so numerous as either of the other kinds. Both of these insects, instead of making the well known crescent mark of the plum Curculio, perforate the fruit by boring a small round hole, in which they deposit their eggs with the same certainty of destroying it, as the plum Curculio.

During the time of jarring the trees, not a day passed without finding more or less of the two new species above described, in about the following proportion: Plum Curculio 25, Small do. 8, Large do. 3.

At the proper season of the year, by watching their movement patiently, large numbers will be seen emerging from the ground, and after surveying their position, will follow the instinct with which nature has endowed them, by crawling up the tree instead of flying. I have often checked their progress in this way by putting a thick piece of pasteboard around the tree in the shape of an inverted funnel, but their wings were soon brought into requisition to overcome the difficulty. They can apparently fly to a great distance, and in high winds are blown in every direction, for after such winds I have found them in different rooms in the first and second story of the house.

Your readers will naturally say, all this is very well, but give us a remedy that will effectually guard against the enemy.

I can safely say, there is a remedy, and a philosophical one, which if faithfully carried out, will insure good crops of fruit so far as Curculio are concerned. First, then, cut off all means of reproduction by picking up every description of fallen fruit two or three times a week, and sub-

jecting it to some process that will effectually destroy grub or larva.

No advantage will be derived from this process the first year, for the curculio is already in the ground; but the satisfaction of having a good crop of plums the second year, will well repay for all the trouble of picking up the fruit.

I have studied the character and habits of these insects for the last ten years—have watched its movements for days and weeks—have tried every remedy published in the different agricultural works all of which have totally failed, except jarring the trees, and paving, and these have only proved partially successful.

By picking up every description of fallen fruit no possible means are left for them to perpetuate their species. I am not aware that any means has ever yet been discovered, that the Curculio can in any other way propagate its species, than by depositing its eggs in some description of fruit—and whatever description of fruit that may be, it must come in contact with earth in such a manner that the grub can escape, and bury itself beneath the surface.

No one can reasonably expect to be entirely exempt from this insect, as long as their neighbors are troubled with them, for some few will fly, or be blown into the trees under any and every circumstance, unless completely shielded by some covering, or net work.

The most complete and accurate description of this insect, according to my own observations has been given by M. H. Simpson, of Massachusetts, in the June number of Downing's Horticulturist for 1850.

In this communication a remedy was given to guard against the Curculio, which proved eminently successful with Mr. Simpson and a Mr. Young of Kentucky, viz. syringing the trees with lime water. This remedy I have never tried.

Very respectfully,

A SUBSCRIBER.

#### REMARKS FOR THE MONTH.

**MAY** is so called from the goddess Maia, a name under which the earth was worshipped at this daedal season of the year. The Saxons termed it *Trimilki*, because they began to milk their cows three times a day in this month.

The Farmer, if successful, has by the middle of this month accomplished much of the spring's labor, in some lands the corn planting is ending; in heavy soils and colder sections it may be prolonged till June.

The country resident has pleasure at every season; but in none, perhaps, has he more than in this cheerful month. All nature seems as if enjoying the return of spring; the spirits are excited, and we feel more than usually disposed to be pleased with all around us. To the farmer it is particularly a time of pleasure—his heavy work is suspended for a season, and the weeds have not advanced so fully, as they shortly will do, to require his vigilant attention. Now is the time for planting root crops; let us urge the advantage of a moderate supply; for horses, Carrots for horned cattle and hogs, Sugar Beets, &c. Perhaps it may be urged that they are troublesome crops—that they require more labor than corn, but their results, with good tillage, justify the opinion that to a reasonable extent they are profitable: 400 bushels to the acre (a moderate computation,) of rich succulent food, is surely worth some labor to produce, especially when green food cannot be otherwise obtained.

Another variety of crop to which farmers would do well to pay more attention is the cultivation of green crops for "soiling." Our natural prairie and wood pastures (which are mainly relied on by many farmers) usually give out about August or September, and then, unless we have something to feed them a little, our cows begin to grow dry, and the supply of fall butter is very sensibly diminished. A few acres sowed broadcast to corn or millet, or sainfoin, or something of that sort will then be found of great advantage.

During all this month the corn-field will require pretty constant attention. Corn may be planted with good prospect of success any time this month, and that which is early planted will soon be ready for the plow or the cultivator. The process of raising large crops is very soon described: Plow deep; make your ground mellow; soak your seed from 18 to 30 hours in a solution of equal parts salt petre and copperas; plant moderately deep, and thoroughly cultivate. If these things are attended to you cannot fail of having a good crop. But you must do the work well, and in season.

This month and June are the great months for weeds, and every farmer should be prepared to attack them in their infancy whenever they may grow. When we were a

youngster we used to be paid a cent a piece for every rat we caught,—and it so happened that one day we were so lucky as to come across a nest of young ones who had not yet got their eyes open. We hastened to the "boss" with them, expecting to receive the promised reward, but he would only give us one cent for the lot—because they had not done any mischief. We thought it queer, then, but it was not more so than for the farmer to suppose that young weeds are less important than old ones.

#### CULTIVATION OF CASTOR BEANS.

CINCINNATI, April 8, 1851.

Mr. A. W. FAGIN, St. Louis.

Dear Sir—As we have permanently engaged in the manufacture of Castor Oil, and intend being annually in the market for Castor Beans, we are interested in their culture; and from our experience and observations, we are led to make some suggestions to you as to what we think essential to the profitable cultivation of the crop.

It is well known that the consumption of Castor Oil is quite limited, when compared with linseed and other oils, and that an over production, or importation, seriously affects its value; hence the cultivation of the bean beyond the actual demand for the oil, materially lessens the value of that actually needed, unlike other produce equally as profitable to cultivate. As the main supply of beans has been cultivated in southern Illinois, so well adapted in soil and climate, by farmers of long and practical experience, it becomes those cultivating them, in view of foreign importations and an increased cultivation in the various Southern States, to consider the best course to supply the demand only, and maintain living prices. During the past year, in that section, to say nothing of others, a much larger amount of ground than usual was planted, and had it not been for the unusual drought and early frost, reducing the crop to about that of last year, beans would not have sold for half their remunerating value to the producer.

Especially in view of the supply from parts foreign to your section, which may be expected to continue, and to guard against the liability of cultivating a crop inadequate to repay the toil in producing it, we suggest that no farmer cultivate more than one half of the usual quantity, cultivating in their stead flaxseed and other produce equally as profitable, and for which there is almost an unlimited demand at any season of the

year at living prices; and relying for the supply of their wants in the fall on the sale of those articles instead of Castor Beans. This will put it in the power of cultivators of Beans to sell them through the year only as the value of Castor Oil and the competition of the manufacturers of it, will afford at least living prices. In the past farmers have depended too much for a supply of their wants in the fall on the sale of their beans, thus subjecting themselves to the disposition of the buyers, and many unfavorable circumstances for securing living prices.

The fall of the year being the most difficult season for manufactures to purchase near a years stock in advance, subject to contingencies, and want of store-room, with the expense of storage, from necessity they are compelled not only to force off their oil at less than its value in the fall but to subject the producers to all the contingencies of buying so large a crop in advance. Whereas, if farmers would only cultivate Castor Beans, to the extent they are able to control, and dispose of them as prices are remunerative, which manufacturers could better afford to pay when needing them, they would secure at least as much for a half a crop, thus sold as for double the quantity sold in the usual way. If, however, such a course is not adopted the present year, cultivators must not only submit to losing prices, but induce the opposite extreme of cultivating even less than would be profitable hereafter. It matters but little to the manufacturers of oil how badly the producers of Beans may manage their productions, as they will be governed in their purchases by the amount of the crop and the value of the oil; except that uniformity of adequate production promotes uniformity of the price of oil, and greater security in manufacturing, which must result to the benefit of the farmer.

We have thus frankly given our views, which we think worthy the consideration of the producers of Castor Beans, and have no doubt if carried out, would result to their benefit. If you think them worthy of notice you are at liberty to use them.

Very respectfully,

CONKLING, WOOD & CO.

At the World's Fair they are going to have a contrivance in the shape of a smoke damper and fire extinguisher. It has been sent from Liverpool, and is worthy of attention in the United States. Hope it will be introduced into America, for the especial comfort of housekeepers.

## TOBACCO CULTURE.

Permit me to say a few words to "A Subscriber," who in a late number of your paper inquires about "Tobacco culture." There has been but little tobacco raised in this country; but two or three persons have grown it for market.

The plants, in this climate, should be transplanted to the field, as early as they can be obtained of sufficient size, not later than the first week in June—from the 15th of May to the 1st of June is the best time. To be able to obtain the plants thus early, the seed should be sown in a hot bed, or in a very favorable place where brush has been burned on new land, and protected from cold winds and frosty nights. Let the seed beds be carefully raked and finely pulverized,—sow the seed broad-cast, being careful not to sow it too thick. The beds should be free from all foul seeds, for as the tobacco seed is very small, when first up the plant are easily destroyed by pulling out weeds and grass from amongst them. When the seed is sown, the only covering of it necessary is, to press down the surface of the ground evenly with a board.

The best soil is considered to be sandy loam, with a plenty of limestone therein—new land is undoubtedly the best. If the land is not new and wants fertilizing, use ashes and barn yard manure. The richer the soil the greater the product, but the quality of the tobacco on soil made artificially very rich, is not as good as that grown on new land.

The land being well plowed and pulverized by harrowing, set out the plants in rows, 3 1-2 feet apart and plants three feet apart in the rows. If the ground is in a high state of cultivation, let the rows and plants be six inches further apart.

Cultivate with the hoe and cultivator as you would corn, but not make hills around the plants—twice hoeing will be sufficient. Top it before it blossoms, and remove all suckers every eight or ten days till ripe. When ripe cut it close to the ground, let it lay and wilt a few hours, when it can be easily handled without breaking; then hang it up in your dry house, which may be a barn, shed or any building which will shield it from the rain and sun. When the leaves have become sufficiently dry, which will be known by the stem of the leaf being hard, strip the leaves from the main stalk and make into hanks, when the weather is suitable.

Tobacco, after it once becomes dry, cannot be handled except in moist or damp weather without serious injury. After being stripped, &c., it should be packed down in boxes or in a bin, with

moderate pressure, till it is to be packed for market, when it should be closely packed in boxes containing about 300 lbs. and snugly pressed,—*Moore's Rural New Yorker.*

## THE POTATO.

This very valuable article of food is a native of this country, its existence being entirely unknown to Europeans until it was brought to Ireland by the celebrated Sir Walter Raleigh, in 1710. An amusing anecdote attended its first introduction. Sir Walter having planted in his garden the specimen which he had brought from Peru, awaited anxiously its growth and maturity. By-and-by the plant sprang up, flowers appeared upon the stems, and finally these were succeeded by little apples, which he mistook for the potatoes. At length the stems began to wither likewise. On examining these he found them small, unpalatable, and by no means resembling the specimen which he had planted. Believing his experiment unsuccessful, and in despair of succeeding in any future experiments with the article, he ordered his gardener to pull the pernicious weed and throw them from his premises. In fulfilling this command the gardener found a bushel of potatoes at the roots of the plant. From this time the potato began to be cultivated in that island, and it has long since formed two-thirds or three-fourths of the food of its inhabitants.

The potato was introduced into Sweden in 1720, into Scotland in 1728, and into France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and other countries of Europe about the same time.

In some parts of Europe the cultivation of this useful vegetable met with violent opposition by the more prejudiced part of the people. In Scotland the people were opposed to its cultivation and use because it was not mentioned in the bible. In France a nobleman was defeated in his election on account of his benevolent exertions to foster its culture. In the Ionian Islands the priests and people rose against the introduction of the potato into their dominions on the grounds that it was the forbidden fruit mentioned in the bible—the cause of man's fall.

In most other countries it required acts of Parliament to encourage its cultivation be-

fore the prejudices of the masses against it would yield. At length, however, its extensive cultivation and general use extended throughout all Europe, and the European provinces in America; and in most of these countries it still maintains its character as the most useful, nutritious, and, in fact, the best vegetables we possess.

Some sixty years since, the potato was introduced into India, and it now forms a common article of food in Bengal, the Madras Provinces, China, Java, and the Philippine Islands.

In the United States this esculent is raised in every State, from Maine to Texas; but especially in the north-eastern and middle States. In the year 1840, one hundred millions bushels potatoes were raised in the United States alone. Of these New York yielded thirty millions, Maine above ten millions, Pennsylvania nine millions and a half, Vermont more than eight millions, and New Hampshire six millions.

The countries of Europe in which this article is most extensively cultivated are Ireland, Scotland, Poland, and Switzerland.

In Mexico and South America the potato is much used as an article of diet, and grown with a luxuriance unknown in most parts of the world. Travellers tell us that it grows wild and in great abundance along the coast and in the extensive plains of Chili and Peru.

We thus see that the potato flourishes in almost every latitude and every variety of climate. It grows to greater perfection, however, and is most extensively cultivated in the more northern countries enjoying a temperate climate. In the tropical countries it does not come to the same perfection, unless it grows at an elevation of three or four thousand feet above the level of the sea. As an article of food it is more extensively used at this time than any other vegetable.

From experiments and calculations made for determining the comparative nutritive properties of the potato, it appears that one acre of good potatoes will support six adult persons, just double the number that can be supported by an acre of wheat.

The potato is composed almost entirely of water and starch, with a small quantity gum, albumen, fat, saline matters, &c. Its

nutritive properties depend almost entirely upon the starch it contains. One hundred pounds of potato yield thirty of starch.

For general consumption they are cooked in various ways, mostly boiled, roasted or baked. According to the experiments of Dr. Beaumont, it appears that baked or roasted potatoes are more digestible than boiled ones, and consequently the two former methods of cooking them should be preferred in most cases to the latter.

As a preventive of scurvy, a disease that so often occurs in the ships upon the ocean, and with which portions of our fleet in the Gulf of Mexico suffered so severely during the late war, the potato, either boiled or raw, is a valuable article. At this time no ship ventures upon the ocean without being plentifully supplied with potatoes; hence scurvy does not occur near so frequently among the crews and passengers as it did in former times.—*Pittsburgh Morn. Post.*

From the Cultivator.

#### CULTURE OF HEMP.

EDS. CULTIVATOR.—The many purposes in life to which the products of the hemp plant may be made subservient, constitute it one of the most useful of cultivated vegetables, not to say an article of prime necessity. Hemp, however, is a plant the cultivation of which is not considered difficult, in any moderately fertile soil, provided the grower governs his practice by a few plain maxims.

The best condition of the ground for the reception of the seeds of a hemp crop, is that pulverization of the soil and that smoothing of the surface by plowing, crossplowing and harrowing, which the grass or wheat farmer would esteem most suitable for either of these crops. The quantity of seed applied, varies in practice from one and a half to two or more bushels per acre,—an excess over the right quantity being considered safer than a short-coming, inasmuch as when too thick, the stouter plants will take the lead and overtop the others, which are thus smoothed and killed. The time of sowing varies in Kentucky, ranging from the middle of April to the last of May. Each individual must be governed in practice somewhat to his discretion; forming his judgment upon the condition of soil, advance of the season, or the extent of his crop, which if large enough to require more than two weeks in harvesting, would make it proper to have alternate sowings, lest a part of the crop

be injured by becoming over ripe,]—the male plants dying and spotting.

The hemp plant disregards any moderate frost, and is therefore seldom injured from that cause in early sowing—the only striking difference between early and late sown crops, will be found to be this, that the chilly temperature of spring produces a low plant, with a thick rough bark, whilst in the rapidly growing temperature of summer, the late crop shoots up to a greater height with a thinner and softer bark. In good crops the yield in either case will be about the same, the time of ripening varying not more than one week even though the difference in sowing may have equalled six weeks.

One maxim which experience rigidly requires the hemp grower to observe, is, *never to commit his seed to land not in "good heart,"* a phrase which implies not only moderate fertility; but also a presence in the soil and an incorporation with it, at the time of sowing of a fair proportion of vegetable matter, in order to ensure a proper degree of friability—a condition without which no deep rooted plants can thrive. A neglect of this maxim, is the most pregnant source of disappointment known in the history of hemp culture, and is generally followed by one or the other two diseases, or rather casualties to the young crop, that is to say by "baking," or "firing," either of which maladies generally has power to arrest entirely the growth of the plant, or hold it in check until surface grasses and weeds overpower the crop. It may therefore be well to consider in detail the nature and symptom of both "baking" and "firing." The first results from a want of vegetable matter in the soil cultivated, as will readily be seen by attending to the symptoms. The vegetable mould or humus of a soil, is but carbonaceous matter accumulated by slow combustion for centuries, which although but slightly soluble in water at any one time, is continually wasting away under the action of the laws of decomposition, being reconverted into its gasses, to fly into the air, or to be reabsorbed by plants. A soil may, therefore, by washing rains, bad tillage, and hard cropping be deprived of most of its vegetable mould; and such a soil may, after having been pulverized to the depth of six or ten inches, receive on its bosom the seeds of a hemp crop. Such a soil, so prepared, may moreover, yield a fair crop, provided the rains of the season falls in light showers, and with great frequency; but such a succession of favorable circumstances seldom happens; and a far more usual occurrence is the coming of a heavy rain, dur-

ing which the mass of loose earth becomes saturated, and the moment after water begins to accumulate on the hard clay below, rising up toward the surface. If, then, the pulverized soil is defective in insoluble vegetable matter well incorporated with the whole mass to act as a sort of frame work in keeping asunder the particles of clay, the whole soon runs together in a state of solidity, whilst the water rising above it, carries in solution carbonates and other salts and lighter particles, which as the water subsides, leaves a marl-like coating upon the embedded clay, rendering it impervious to the air or water in a very high degree. This is called "baking," and those who have sometimes experienced its effects, in their anxiety to avoid it, not unfrequently pass into the opposite extreme, which is "firing" the plants, by attempting to grow the hemp crop with too much vegetable matter present in the soil, or with vegetable matter not in a condition to nourish and sustain vegetable life. The symptoms, above ground, indicating the presence of this malady, are a suspension of growth, a loss of color and vigor in the plants, and a parching up of the margin of the lower leaves; below ground the plants will be found to have only a tap-root the lower part of which is sometimes decayed, whilst in other cases, sections of the root may be found perfectly rotten, with sound portions above and below such sections, whilst at the same time the vegetable matter under the surface, will generally be covered with a white mould. To avoid a catastrophe so pregnant with mischief, the farmer should know the nature of the disease in order to be qualified to judge of the fitness of any means of escape. I incline to adopt the theory of Liebig on this subject, which is at least very plausible, if not true. He thinks that in such a case, the colored vegetable matter is undergoing putrefaction, a state of decay in which it not only is unfit to feed vegetables, but has power to rob all bodies in contiguity, of oxygen, in order to carry on this decay, thus even destroying or "firing" the roots of living plants.

What renders his theory more plausible is, that a habit of early fall plowing, which allows such matter full time to decay into a brittle mass, will generally overcome this danger. By a parity of reasonings—if this fall plowing shall have been neglected—the better practice in such soil would be to cross-plow occasionally, in the course of the hemp sowing period, not committing the seed until the latest allowable moment.

The seed being good, the ground well prepared and the crop having passed through the danger

of baking and firing,—that is, having obtained the height of six to ten inches, scarcely any thing but a hail storm can disappoint the grower's hopes of a crop, the harvesting of which will be his next concern. This operation consists in cutting, curing, binding and stacking the crop,—all if possible, without rain, for it will be found that the lint, by every process of preparation is better when the plants are not allowed to grow dark by exposure to rain, dews and hot sun; whilst for complete success, in the white or water rot, a fair staple is indispensable. Cutting is generally performed by hand, using a straight knife, of fine steel, some fifteen inches long, which in operating should dip with the horizon at about the same angle as a mower's sythe. The handle attached, is about two feet long, making with the edge of the knife an angle of about 100 degrees.

In about four days after the cutting, the plants in fair weather are gathered and tied into bundles and if possible on the same day put into sacks containing the yield of two acres each, of a fair crop. Keep all the branches—cutting, binding, and stacking—as near together as curing the plants will allow. This practice guards against the loss of labor and injury to the crop, sometimes experienced when the plants are bound into bundles, and left standing over the field in small shocks. Hemp thus left in shocks, gets so wet as to require being spread again upon the field, before stacking. It is the work of one active man to cut, bind and stack one acre in five days.

THE REWARD CLAIMED.—The following is one of the applications for the reward of ten thousand dollars offered by the Massachusetts Legislature for the discovery of a cure for potato rot. As will be observed, it is addressed to the Secretary of the Commonwealth Amasa Walker, Esq:—

i may say walker esq

secretary of state

in the house where they make a seneter  
every fortnit bostown

deer sur—i heern say you'd giv notis that you'd giv ten thousen for enny thing that ud perwent purtaters from rottin i must say i reckon its ginoine generosity in you that ere is s o i'd like to have the munny i got a recait that'l do your business in the purtater way way i'dl let you had it in time afore you put a printed notis in the nuss-paper but its no mater the more claims you git

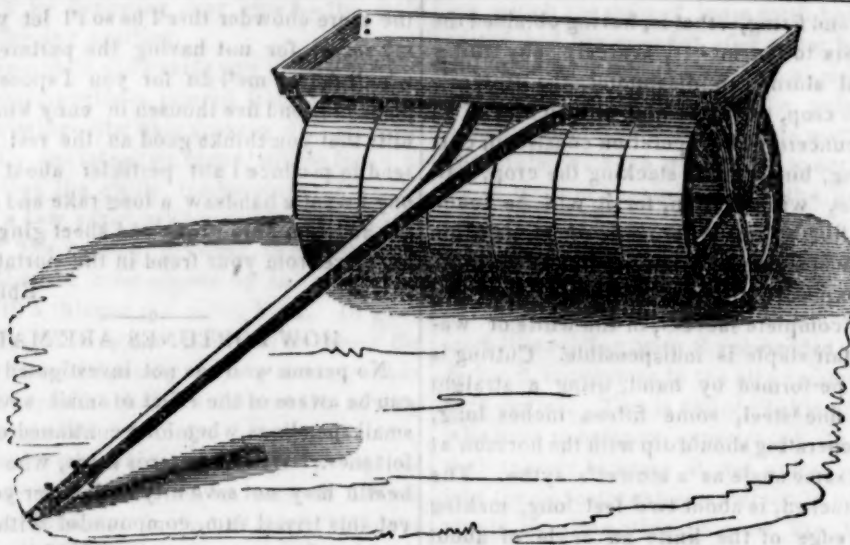
the more chowder ther'l be so i'l let you know my secret for not having the purtater rot and what'l du for me'l du for you I spose i eats em pleeze tu send five thousen in enny kinder bank bills that you thinks good an the rest you may send in produce i ant pertikler about the kind ony i want a handsaw a long rake and a pod auger and sum boss beans and sheet ginger bred so no more from your frend in the purtater line.

Ebin loam.

#### HOW FORTUNES ARE MADE.

No person who has not investigated the matter can be aware of the effect of small savings, and small spendings, when long continued upon men's fortunes. What laborer is there, who with good health may not save fifty dollars per year? And yet this trivial sum, compounded with only six per cent, interest, amounts to \$650 in ten years, eighteen hundred dollars in twenty years, three thousand nine hundred and fifty in thirty, and seven thousand seven hundred dollars in forty years. This fortune, a comfortable provision, to say the least, for the future, to a man of sixty years of age, may be accumulated by saving only thirteen and three-fourths cents per day! It is not uncommon to see families side by side, equal in numbers and industry, living apparently in the same style and possessing so far as the public can judge, the same sources of prosperity, whereof the one grows wealthy and the other labors under the continued pressure of debts and pecuniary embarrassments. The old proverb, that some men are born with silver spoons in their mouths, and others with wooden ones, is often resorted to as the explanation of such mystery at all. Thirteen or fourteen cents a day may slip through a man's fingers imperceptibly, not only to others, but to himself.

He may keep an invisible bad habit, which will cost him twice that sum daily, and which he will never think of as a considerable expence. A very temperate and worthy man, after each meal calls regularly at the next hotel and smokes a cigar which cost him three cents. From twenty to seventy years of age he continues this practice. This expenditure, with the accumulated interest upon it, will at that time amount to more than nine thousand dollars! And if, after an enterprising and industrious life, he has accumulated that sum, he will, in almost any town, be reputed wealthy. A fortune of one hundred and forty-five thousand dollars may be acquired in fifty years, by earning and keeping safely invested, eight shillings and three pence New England currency per day.



Cast Iron Field Roller.—FIG. 24.

The Cast Iron Field Roller is an important implement, and is fast coming into general use.

It crushes all sods and lumps that remain on top of the ground after the harrow has passed, and forss small stones and clods down even with the surface, and thus renders the field smooth for the cradle, scythe and rake; presses the earth close about the seed, and secures a more sure and quick germination.

But its greatest beacfits to our western farmers is in preventing the seed from becoming uncovered or removed from its place by the high winds and driving rains, which usually succeed the seeding season; it often happens that the ground upon exposed situations, such as ridges, &c. is left almost entirely bare, when by the use of the roller, the seed might have been kept in its place. We presume that most of the difficulty experienced in getting blue grass and other seeds to *take*, might be overcome by the faithful use of the roller after seeding. It is also of great benefit when used on such light sandy and porous soils as are not sufficiently compact to hold the roots of plants firmly, and retain a suitable moist-suitable moisture; on such lands they are invaluable, and in all cases their use has greatly increased the product. Much benefit is undoubtedly found by compressing the surface of such light soils, by preventing the escape of those gasses from the ma-

nure, so essential to vegetation, and so easily extracted by the sun and winds. The cast iron roller is sold at the St. Louis Agricultural Warehouse, at 45 dollars for the small size, and 60 for the large.

#### GOOD RULES AND GOOD MANAGEMENT.

One of the best farmers in the State of New York has the following rules and regulations agreed to and signed by every man he hires.

*It is expected that all persons employed on the farm of \_\_\_\_\_, will carefully attend to the following system:*

Regularity in hours.

Punctuality in cleaning and putting away implements.

Humanity to animals.

Neatness and cleanliness in personal appearance.

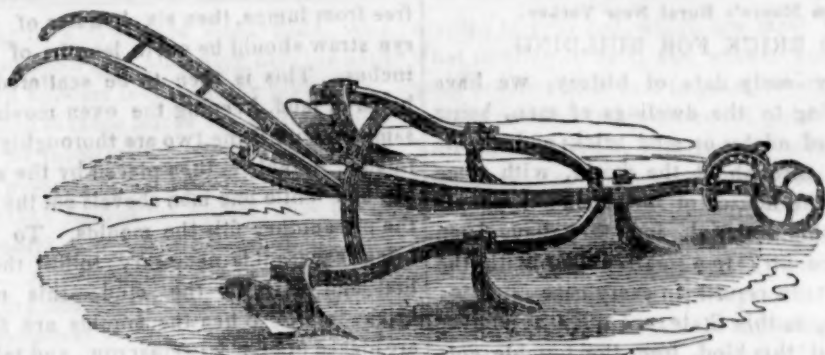
Decency in deportment and conversation.

Implicit obedience to the proprietor and foreman.

Ambition to learn and excel in farming.

#### *Maxims of Order and Neatness.*

1. Perform every operation in proper season.
2. Perform every operation in the best manner.
3. Complete every part of the operation as you proceed.
4. Finish one job before you begin another.
5. Secure your work and tools in an orderly manner.
6. Clean every tool when you leave off work.
7. Return every tool and implement to its right place.



Universal Cultivator.—FIG. 25.

The Universal Cultivator is an implement that has recently been constructed by Rugles, Nourse, Mason & Co., and sold at the St. Louis Agricultural Warehouse. It is made long, and all of iron except the handles; the side beams being of wrought iron so curved that as they are expanded or contracted, by loosening the iron key that confines each tooth in its place, they are each moved forward or back to a point that will again cause them to work parallel with the centre beam and at equal distances from each other. To these are fitted several sets of different formed teeth and scarifiers, of wrought and cast iron, and are sold with one or more sets.

There is also a set of plow moulds, calculated to work in the rear, which may be used instead of the common teeth, turning the furrows in opposite directions, and fitting alike both side beams; they may be placed by changing, to turn the furrows to or from the centre, or rows of vegetables.

If the forward teeth are used at the same time, they finely pulverize the soil, and if the plows are set to turn inwardly, it forms a beautiful light bed in which to plant any kind of seeds. The farmer or planter can have any kind of wrought teeth he may desire attached to them by a blacksmith, as the manner of fitting them to the beams is very simple and easy. The price complete is \$16.

**WASHING SHEEP.**—A correspondent of the *Prairie Farmer* says he washed his sheep last spring in the following manner—as recommended by an experienced wool dealer:

“I took a trough that would hold about a barrel, and filled it with soap suds. I laid a board on one end of the trough, slanting towards it, so

that when a sheep was dipped and taken on to the board the water would drain into the trough. A boy took the hind legs of the sheep, and I took the fore legs, and turned their backs into the trough, then raised them out on the board and squeezed the wool thoroughly with our hands. When the soap suds grew low we would add more—having a quantity of dissolved soap in readiness. The soap suds should be made very strong.

“When we had thus soaked them all, we commenced washing. I found the wool whiter and cleaner than I ever got it before without soap, though I have helped to wash sheep for more than twenty years. And when we came to shear the sheep, we found the ticks all dead. Not more than four live ticks were found on any one sheep.”

**MARKING SHEEP.**—An agriculturist says:—“I wish to impress it upon every one who keeps a flock, if not more than half a dozen, that Venetian red is the best thing that I ever saw used to paint-mark sheep. It is, as most all know, a cheap red paint, only a few cents a pound, and one pound will mark a thousand. Take a pinch of dry powder, and draw the thumb and finger through the wool upon the particular spot you would mark, loosing the powder at the same time, and it will combine with the oil of the wool, and make a bright red mark that rains will never wash out, and which will endure from one shearing to another, but does not injure the wool. It is readily cleansed out by the manufacturer.”

**THE FARMER'S CREED.**—Small farms and thorough cultivation—large crops, which leave the land better than they found it—going to the bottom of things, and therefore deep plowing. The best fertilizer of the soil is the spirit of industry, enterprise and intelligence.

From Moore's Rural New Yorker.

#### MUD BRICK FOR BUILDING.

From very early date of history, we have matter relating to the dwellings of men, being constructed of *adobes* or mud brick; and at the present day throughout the world, with some exceptions, the houses of the common people are built of this material, and they have been tried in this country to a small extent with the most satisfactory results in every case.

At Geneva, in this State, are quite a number of buildings of this kind, from the humble cottage to the stately mansion. They are mostly finished in good style and present as good an appearance as any that are built of more costly materials. This mode of building was introduced here about 12 years ago by an English mechanic—a mason by trade. The first building which he erected was a kitchen attached to his house, which he finished with much care, and it presented such a good appearance that it was visited and examined as a curiosity by a great number of persons. He was afterwards employed by others to build dwellings of larger dimensions, which was soon imitated with Yankee spirit. Yet even here the notion had its advocates and opposers; prejudice shows itself the same as in other cases. But I can recommend this mode of building with perfect confidence, having myself constructed one and lived in it for years, and actually found more good qualities combined than it is possible to find with any other kind. It proved to be warm in winter, and cool in summer; the walls are never damp—it afforded no harbor for vermin—it required no lathing, the walls being ready to receive the plastering, both on the outside and inside. The base boards and window casing were nailed to the brick; the nails held as well as if driven into pine timber.

The process of mixing the clay and moulding the brick is a very simple affair, requiring but little ingenuity, and can be performed by any common laborer, who by a short practice will make them with great facility, 200 being considered a good days work for two hands in preparing the clay and moulding off the brick. The clay is prepared as follows:—A circular pit about 12 feet in diameter should be dug 2 feet in depth and a floor of rough boards placed over the bottom. This is then to be filled with clay, and a small mixture of loam or sand, and water is then to be added sufficient to moisten the batch. A yoke of oxen are then driven into the pit, and turned about to the right until the clay becomes

free from lumps, then six bundles of wheat or rye straw should be cut in lengths of about six inches. This is then to be scattered over the batch of mud, keeping the oxen moving at the same time until the two are thoroughly incorporated. A table is then placed by the side of the pit, and while one man shovels out the mud from the pit another fills the moulds. To make the bricks square it is necessary to fill the corners first and dash in the mud,—this makes the bricks solid. When the moulds are filled they are placed upon a wheelbarrow, and taken to the ground previously leveled and sanded where the moulds are carefully inverted and lifted from the brick, which should be covered with a sprinkling of sand to prevent its drying on the upper side too fast, and also prevent its cracking.

The moulds are nailed together and are of the following dimensions. On the inside they are one foot three inches long, one foot wide, and six inches deep, with cleats on each end to lift them by. There should also be an aperture left in each end of the moulds to admit air, as the brick adhere without such precaution;—this can be done by leaving the bottom too short to cover the whole length. The moulds need to be kept sanded on the inside and also need washing as often as every third brick is moulded, on account of the soft clay adhering to the sides and bottom—a barrel filled with water should be placed at hand for this purpose. When the bricks become somewhat hard they should be raised from their recumbent position and placed on the edge, both sides are then exposed to the air, which facilitates the drying. And when they are nearly cured, they should be stacked in a large pile and covered with boards to protect them from the weather, that the drying process may be completed before being laid in the walls of the buildings, as the shrinkage is considerable from the time they are made until they are perfectly dried. In laying them in the walls, the same kind of mortar can be used that the brick are made from omitting the cut straw.

As to the durability of these houses there can be no question if properly constructed. The following precautions should be used. Elevate them well from the ground, so that no moisture reaches the brick by capillary attraction. No base should project to impede the running off of the water, and the mortar for plastering the outside of the building should be composed of the best of materials for such purpose. Good, coarse sharp sand, not too much lime and if at any time it should cleave off it can be permanently attach-

ed, by driving in a few good sized nails, with large flat heads, and then plastering over the nails each of which hold six inches of the plastering.

The qualities of these bricks for building purposes, need the investigation of a more scientific head than I possess, and I hope that the proper persons will take hold of the matter and lay it before the public, as the true merits of the subject require. A few things I am certain of: the brick being dry and porous and to a certain degree non-conductors of heat; consequently the heat generated in a room does not pass off as it would if it came in contact with burnt brick or stone; and also being porous they immediately absorb all moisture that comes in contact with them, which is again gradually dried up by the air; and also from their peculiar qualities do not condense the moisture that may be in the air.

They are capable of being finished so as to appear as well as if built of any other common material, and at one half the cost of brick, stone or wood, and every laboring man can build his own house if he thinks proper, or if he hires a mason to lay up the walls he will be surprised at the advancement which a day's labor will accomplish from the large size of the bricks. Should I ever build another house for my own use it would be of this material. In constructing our dwellings we would have an eye to the comfort of the concern, more than to the display, for it is not the costliness of our homes that secures the former, but in the conveniences pertaining. There are many things required about the home of a man and his family to make it agreeable, beside the outward display of the dwelling, and if we can secure comfort at a cheap rate it is time to lay prejudice one side and use common sense in matters pertaining thereunto.

#### FROM A FATHER TO HIS SON.

##### METHOD IN BUSINESS.

Farm accounts demand your early attention. Keep a daily journal, in which note down,—1. All your farm expenses, and all you receive from its products. This will enable you to determine your farm income. 2. Note down your family expenses. Subtract these, at the end of the year from the income of the farm. The balance will be your annual net profit. 3. Keep also an account of the expenses bestowed on each crop, the contents of the ground being ascertained, and the lot numbered, and its products and profits. This account may be posted at the close of the year, and will instruct you what crops are best

adapted to your soil, which are most profitable, what rotation is best, and enable you to vary your practice so as best to promote your interest and the general improvement of your farm. 4. Note down the cost, increase and sale of your farm stock, and its products in cheese, butter, wool, meat, &c. This will show you the relative profit of each. These two last items may be posted from your daily journal, if the fields and animals are sufficiently designated. And 5. Put down daily, the business and ordinary transactions of the farm and any occurrences that may be deemed worth remembering, as matters of reference. All this will occupy you ten minutes each evening; and when familiar it will be found an agreeable task, and it will assist you very much in regulating your farm concerns. The book which I use has three double columns for figures, in one of which, are carried out my farm expenses—in another my family expenses, and in the third, the moneys received for farm products. A few minutes, at the end of the year, suffices to ascertain their aggregate amounts.

Farm tools and implements should be substantially made, of good pattern, kept in order for use, when not in use, protected from the weather. A slight made implement is likely to break, and on occasion a loss of time in getting it repaired. A bad pattern is always dearer in the end, whatever be its nominal price, than a good one.

"It will do well enough for the present," should never satisfy you. The loss in putting implements in order, at the moment they are wanted often causes serious delay. Besides they can be put in order at leisure times, or during stormy weather. Exposure to the weather soon impairs the value of the best tools. Every implement should have a place assigned for it, where it should be deposited, when not in use. It is better to spend ten minutes to carry a tool to its place, than to spend sixty as is often the case, in looking for it when it is out of its place. These rules preclude you from habitually lending your tools. There is nothing more vexing than to have to send through a neighborhood for one's tools, when in immediate want of them. A good farmer will seldom borrow—a bad one will seldom buy, as long as he can borrow. Of the tools not in common use on a farm, I commend to you particularly the hay or straw cutter. It will enable you to save one quarter of the fodder. The cultivator will soon save its cost in the economy of labor it effects; in drilled or hoed crops, and, in most cases, is a better imple-

ment in this culture than the plow. A revolving horse-rake will earn its cost in a season; and a roller is indispensable in good farming. The drill-barrow, the corn-sheller, and the potato-hock are also useful and economical upon most farms, and the threshing machine upon farms where grain is extensively cultivated.

**EARLY RISING.**—The farmer's business more perhaps than any other, prospers by the habit of early rising. As his labors generally terminate with the day, there is sufficient time for rest. A farmer's family should be abroad or up, by five o'clock, at all seasons. The master should set the example. Practice will soon render the habit a desirable one.

—o—  
From the Horticulturist.

#### DOMESTIC ANIMALS FOR PARKS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS.

BY L. F. ALLEN, BLACK ROCK, N. Y.

It is passing strange that a people so intelligent in most things appertaining to their own enjoyment, and so ambitious in the fitting up and arrangement of their country places, as the Americans, have thus far shown so little taste in collecting fine domestic animals about them, not only as creatures of convenience and economy in living, but as adding a beauty and effect to their summer homes far more expressive than any thing else which can be obtained even at a much greater expense. In every populous part of the United States, and more particularly in the neighborhood of our large cities and towns, scattered far and wide, are seen imposing and costly houses, seated in large lawns and parks, planted out with noble trees, embellished with beautiful gardens, and expensive grounds, to say nothing of the minor decorations, both of nature and of art, set up or planted at much cost, and cared for at a heavy annual charge upon the proprietor, merely as objects to gratify the taste, or to arrest the attention of the passer-by, to gaze at and admire. These, so far as they go, are all very well; but, contrary to what is usually supposed, they fall short of completing a country establishment as it should be; a pantomime in the landscape; not speaking to the heart like the living action and the moving beauty of animal life, which would otherwise give effect and fulness to so much rural beauty and ornate embellishment, and make it just what it should be, the perfection of rural

objects inartificially brought together, and filling up a complete picture.

In taking a summer drive through a neighborhood of the fine summer establishments out of our large cities, or on the banks of the Hudson or the Delaware, and observing the fastidious keeping of many of the parks and grounds about them, one would suppose that the land was not made to be grazed or trodden upon, even where worthless for any other purpose; and that the presence of an animal to run at large in the enclosures, was a contamination of vulgarity not for a moment to be tolerated. All this, to one who appreciates the country in its true spirit, is false and artificial. An open common, with a humble cot or two upon its margin—the huge Oak or Elm along its border—the grazing cow—the scattering sheep—or

“The noisy geese that gabble o’er the pool,” are more interesting objects in quickening the enjoyment of one who truly contemplates them, than a paradise full of such dull, unfeeling beauty.

Nor does this inattention to inanimate objects arise from a grudging of the expense of obtaining and keeping them, but from the want of a knowledge of what to get, and how to manage the creatures which are required for the purpose. A resident of the city, getting up a country place, where himself and family are to spend their summers, knows that he wants his horses. For them his stables are built and furnished to all required extent and convenience. He knows also that he must have a cow or two to furnish the daily milk for the house; possibly a pig to put in the “pen,” and eat the offals of the kitchen; and perhaps a dozen hens to furnish the new laid eggs, so dear to all good housekeepers, with any quantity of dogs to guard the premises, and, though he does not think of it, to become an intolerable nuisance by their daily depredations among his neighbors. His horses—for he is, perhaps, a man of taste in that line—are good, and such as he takes pleasure in driving or riding after,—and he likes, besides, to see his wife and children, and guests, well set up in their driving equipage, but for all the rest he cares or knows nothing. His cow, which he knows simply as a thing that gives milk, and lives on grass, is probably driven in and sold to him by a cattle-jobber in the neighborhood, and more likely

than not of the commonest description of brutes, and disgraceful to any piece of land but to the worst and most obscure lot on the farm. She is, therefore, driven out and kept in obscurity, and shows herself only to the stable-boy, who drives her up, milks, and kicks her out of sight again, as soon and as carelessly as possible. The pig and chickens are got to match, while the dogs, of "mongrel, puppy, whelp, and hound degree," run wild on the place, the only real "lords of misrule" on the domain.

Thus he has no domestic thing around him beyond his horses or dogs, in the brute creation, that interests him. His meadows yield him only a scanty crop of hay for his horses, and his pastures run waste for want of creatures to crop them, or are gnawed to the ground by his neighbors' breachy cattle. He is, consequently, without anything to arrest his attention in the fields or grounds and the overgrown grass in his lawn or park—for what is a country house without one or both?—must be weekly cut to keep it in good trim, and he becomes annoyed at the continual expense of keeping a hand or two to clip and rake a scanty coat of shrivelled herbage, or otherwise see it grow up rank and seedy on his ill kept grounds. And what is the poor man to do? Why, as sensible men do, who have some natural fancy that way, and taste, and economy, and liberality enough to get something worth keeping, and ornament his grounds with beautiful well bred cattle or sheep. Deer, as in England, he cannot keep; and if he could, they are a creature of no profit. Neither will our American fences hold, and they are destructive to every young thing of vegetable growth within reach.\* But choice cattle and sheep he can get, which may be kept without trouble and be a source of profit and pleasure. And premising that our friend, who is disposed to take some sensible advice, wishes to make a few inquiries as to what description of stock he wants, a hint or two will be given for his benefit.

If he delight in a horse, and inclines to breed a colt or two, which may grow up

on his farm and make a good family beast or a match of them, for his own riding or driving, let him get one or more fine young healthy mares, as breeders, and turn them into the park. Let them be at least half bred 'turf horse' in blood. If three fourths or seven-eighths of that blood all the better, if well selected. They will be great in wind and bottom for the road. A mare or two of such material, with each a colt at her foot, will be a beautiful and characteristic ornament to the grounds in summer, kept easily through the winter on the common "fodder" of the place, with a little grain, and grow up to profit and future usefulness. If he love cattle—and he has little business in the country if he does not—let him get, according to his area of ground, one, two, three, or more well selected Short horn, Devon, Ayrshire, or Alderney cows, as his soil and fancy may direct, and turn into his park; and if he have still more room, a dozen or two nice, well bred South Down sheep to graze after the cows, and give him choicer mutton than any he can find at the neighboring butchers, or even better than he can get out from the city.

If his soil be strong, and his pastures rich, he should take the Short horns for his cows. They are the largest, most imposing, and profitable of all others, where feed is abundant—will give a "bushel" of milk in a day, of the richest quality; and, scattered over his grounds, with their beautiful silky colors of white or red, or more usual, both intermingling in every variety of shade, present the most picturesque group imaginable, as they graze, or stand, or lie ruminating among the trees. If the soil be light and the pasture shorter, let him adopt either the Devons, the Ayrshires, or the Alderneys. They are all good milkers, when properly selected, and for his governance I will describe them briefly.

The Devon is a medium sized animal, deerlike in its appearance, a full cherry red in color, with a clean delicate head, a high spreading horn, a clear prominent eye, and of perfect symmetry in figure; light, agile, and beautiful; she is docile, perfectly hardy, and easily kept.

The Ayrshire is the "dairy cow" of the Scotch lowlands; a great milker, an exceedingly pretty animal, of medium size, a deep to light red and white in color—but the red

\*We cannot quite agree with our correspondent about the deer—unless his remarks apply to our wild deer. The deer of the English Parks are perfectly tame, and as easily kept within bounds as any of our cattle. We do not see why they should not be imported into our parks, as well as Short horns.—ED. HOR.

largely predominating; a low yet delicate horn; not so light and graceful as the Devon in figure, but of a most domestic, house-keeping appearance, and as useful and profitable a creature as lives.

The Alderney, Jersey, or Guernsey cow—for she is called all these names—is the cow of the English islands on the coast of France. She is largely kept on the Isle of Wight, and in Hampshire and other southern counties of England, by the gentry, for her rich and creamy milk, and delicious butter. She is small in stature, meek and somewhat inferior in appearance, a “crumpled” horn, red and white in color, quiet in temper, usually low in flesh, and requires good feeding to keep her in good condition when in milk, and at no time presents that beautiful and imposing appearance of the other breeds. But her usefulness is unsurpassed, and a herd of Alderneys grazing in a pasture, or park, or paddock, are a pretty sight to look upon.

Either of the above varieties of cow are profitable, as well as ornamental animals to the park or pleasure grounds, and when selected with an eye to their milking qualities, in which they usually excel, none others can equal them. Their value, according to blood and quality, with the breeders, is from one hundred to one hundred and fifty dollars each, but those wanting them for milking qualities alone, and not requiring those choice and high traits of “blood” to which breeders attach so much value, may readily obtain them at prices varying from seventy-five to one hundred and fifty dollars; and many of them, for milking alone, are worth either sum named, better than a common cow is worth her usual price in market.

The South Down sheep is a good sized animal, with a snug, compact fleece of medium quality; a black or dark brown face; robust in its figure, and of exceeding ripeness of points. It is emphatically the mutton sheep of England, with a dark, venison colored flesh, arriving at early maturity, and giving a saddle and chop equalled by no other sheep among us. They are exceedingly gentle and quiet in their habits, hardy in constitution, prolific, and easily kept, either in a lean pasture, or in the straw yard.

If a lake, a pond, or a running stream lie within the park, the large African, or the

white or brown China, or the Bremen goose, is a most ornamental, as well as useful water fowl. The African or China, has the long arched neck, and all the beauty and grace of the swan, and their cry at a distance is really musical. They are fine and delicate in their flesh, very domestic, and in all but our most northerly climates, quite hardy. They are, with abundance of water, a decided ornament to the pleasure grounds.

There are many spacious grounds and extensive farms in several of our States, where fine herds and flocks of some of the varieties of cattle and sheep described are kept and bred in great purity, and easily accessible to those who desire them. No well managed country establishment, either of the professional farmer or the amateur, can be complete without a specimen of some one breed of choice animals upon it; and when we in America shall have learned the art of country life as they understand it in England, no place of any pretension will be found which shall not embrace more or less of these fine varieties of stock within its enclosures, as giving character, finish, and effect to its appointments.

My remarks on this subject, may, I am aware, be thought to “smell of the shop,” but convinced, as I am, that in the United States we are most lamentably behind the times in this important appendage to our country establishments; and referring to a recent conversation with you on this subject, I thus “give tongue” to my thoughts. And I will only add my entire conviction that he who seeks one of the highest enjoyments of country life, can do no better than to cultivate a taste, both in himself and in his family, for the appreciation of fine domestic animals, in which they will find some of their purest and least expensive pleasures. It is so with many who from entire indifference have become enthusiasts in their love of them; and for myself—though it be egotism to say it—in my own island park of some hundreds of acres, I find no serener pleasure than with my honest shepherd dog at my side, to stroll out among my Short-horns, my Devons, and my South Downs, and amid the summer beauty of woods, and grass, and waters, to call them around me in their joyous fulness, and commune with their gentle natures as one entrusted by a kind

Providence with the care of his subordinate creatures, and whose bounty in this beautiful creation, it would be guilt in me to neglect.

—o—  
From the Wool Grower.

#### WHITTLING SHINGLES.

SCENE. Mr. John Plowhandle's barn-yard. John with a large shingle and a broad grin, whittling from him: Editor's shingle taking the shape of a tomahawk.

John.—You see I have not forgotten your last lesson, I always whittle from me.

Editor.—I don't see any such thing. I cannot see any evidence of it in this yard, or about your barns. On the contrary, you have been whittling towards you ever since foddering commenced.

John.—How so?

Editor.—Will you please to tell me what kind of litter this is scattered over the whole yard, and making so much of the bulk of the dung heap thrown from your stables?

John.—Why it is nothing but stalks that the cattle won't eat.

Editor.—It's no such thing; it is bright particles of California gold dust that you dug last summer, which you are now wasting so liberally, and to excuse your laziness lay it to the cattle. Ah, John!

John.—You don't pretend to say these old stalks are good for any thing except manure?

Editor.—Yes I do. Now here is a dry bright stalk nearly or quite as long as yourself. All the cattle could make of it was, to pick off the husks and leaves. Let us cut into it. It must have some nutriment surely.

John.—Don't believe a word about it. There is no more nutriment in that stalk than in the pith of an alder. I had rather have my experience than all the book farming that has ever been got up to humbug farmers with. I've fed out my stalks in this way for twenty years, and have never seen my cattle eat more than they now do. And that satisfies me that there's nothing nutritious in them.

Editor.—John, your ears are longer than any donkey's in the Union. Now just to show what a small light is the wisdom of you "know it all" farmers, we will cut a few of these stalks up into this box. Cut them smaller, John, not bigger than your finger nail. If cut too long the cattle cannot eat them; there, that will do. Now call up old Brindle, for she has been watching the operation. Her opinion will be worth something. Well, what says the cow?

John.—She has eaten most of the stalks, but she would have eaten saw dust if cut fine.

Editor.—Thus you see that for twenty years you have been scattering the dust, for whatever is wasted is money thrown away. It cost much labor to raise these stalks, and here you have thrown away at least two-thirds.

John.—You surely do not expect that I can cut up fine all the stalks I raise? Why, I had twenty acres of corn, and the stalks were very heavy. What a job it would be to cut up twenty acres of stalks in a cutting box.

Editor.—Upon a moderate calculation you had at least two tons of stalks to the acre, which would give you forty tons. All this you have handled over to give your cattle ten tons of leaves and husks; for the leaves and husks are about one-fourth of the quantity. A little more labor would have saved all your previous work, and given you a profit, where you now experience a loss. I tell you, John, every stalk has gold dust in it. But is it such a job to cut up the stalks? You have a good straw cutter, of course.

John.—No, Sir! I've no such thing. I think my cattle can cut their own food. I have never yet been humbugged by any of your fancy machinery, as I call straw cutters.

Editor.—Well, how do you dispose of your straw?

John.—Feed it to the cattle, and litter the stables with it. Straw is not worth much for food any way, and I make no account of it.

Editor.—Do you have much straw?

John.—I generally have about 50 acres in oats, wheat and barley.

Editor.—Do you raise many roots?

John.—No, it's too much trouble. They won't pay. I tried beets and carrots some, and turnips once; but it was so much work to weed the little varmint, that I gave it up as a very puttering sort of a job to raise any kind of roots except potatoes, and they don't pay since the rot broke out. I'd rather raise three acres of corn than one of roots; and believe the corn the most profitable. I can make more beef, pork, mutton, or money, from my three acres of corn, than your book farmers can from all the roots that grow in ten counties. Ugh! set me at any thing but weeding carrots, or beets, or turnips.

Editor.—That is, you are willing to get a living any way but by good farming. If you can make money by the wasteful course you adopt, perhaps the "book farmers," as you are pleased to call those who bring system and order into

their practice, can get along much faster. Let us figure a little. An acre of land that will produce two tons of hay, or fifty bushels of corn, will easily produce 600 bushels of roots, whether carrots, beets, or turnips. How long do you fodder?

*John.*—About five months.

*Editor.*—Well, that will be 150 days. Now half a bushel a day would make 75 bushels; three pecks a day would make 112 bushels. Suppose we raise 600 bushels of roots, this will give nearly three pecks a day to six head of cattle; but say we feed them 100 bushels per head. If we feed cut stalks, half a bushel would do well; if cut straw be used more roots should be given. In any event an acre of straw cut, with 100 bushels of roots will winter an ox, or cow, or young stock, as well as two tons of hay; and an acre of stalks would do the same with the smaller food, or 75 bushels. You grow fifty acres of straw crops, and 20 acres of corn, making 70 acres. Now if you had grown 10 acres of roots, you could have wintered well at least 60 head of cattle; and as it is reckoned that a cow equals ten sheep, you could have wintered from five hundred to six hundred sheep; no small item in these times of high prices for wool. And then look at what a nice pile of manure you would have had.

*John.*—Yes, and what heaps of trouble I should have had. Where could I store my roots so that I could get them in the winter? I should want an acre of cellar at least; and that would be a large item of expense. And then the idea of cutting so much food. Why I should want a steam engine to run night and day.

*Editor.*—Not too fast, good John. If you had cellars under your barns, as you ought to have, you would have abundance of room to store all the roots you would want till there comes a thaw, and then you could cart in from the pits in the field. But the cutting seems to distress you. A steam engine is a good idea, and if your business would warrant it would be decidedly the thing. But that you have not got. You have one of Wheeler's horse powers, get one of his power stalk and straw cutters, and two men and a boy will cut up at least three tons of food in a day—perhaps more. At this rate it would not be a very hard job, or very expensive. And in what way could you employ labor so profitably?

*John.*—According to your calculation a man need not have any meadow at all; for some time ago you made out that horses could be wintered well on straw and saw dust.

*Editor.*—Not saw dust, John. Saw dust seems

to trouble you much. I said, cut straw and mill feed, shorts and bran. I think that there is truly no need of meadows where you can have plenty of roots and straw or stalks; and the labor you bestow upon your meadow in making hay, together with the use of the land, will nearly or quite pay for cutting your straw or stalks.

*John.*—But you don't mean to say you can winter sheep on cut straw and roots; and that you would advise it?

*Editor.*—Most assuredly I do. I think it's the very best way that sheep can be wintered, especially if you add a little bran, or corn meal with the cut food.

*John.*—Well, if I could only get along without the confounded roots, I don't know but there might be some object to get ready and make a trial next year. Can't I use meal just as well and cheap?

*Editor.*—Suppose you figure on it a little.—How much would you consider as sufficient for a daily feed?

*John.*—About four quarts of meal with straw or stalks I should think would be sufficient.

*Editor.*—50 bushels of corn would give 400 feeds of 4 quarts; so that it would take nearly three acres of corn to feed up as much straw or stalks as one acre of roots would do. The corn will sell for money, but the roots and straw will not.

*John.*—How shall I go to work to raise roots well. I have never yet paid any attention to the subject. Perhaps I may try to do something at it this year. But there goes the dinner horn. Boys, give the cattle a good feed of stalks—gold dust I suppose I must call them after this. Come, let us go to dinner, and then we will talk about roots.

MANAGEMENT OF A COW WITH HER FIRST CALF.—There is so much common sense—so much true philosophy in the following, we feel it our duty to commend it warmly to favor.

"Mr. Russel Woodward, in the Memoirs of the N. Y. Board of Agriculture, says: 'I have found that young cows, the first year they give milk, may be made with careful milking and good keeping, to give milk almost any length of time required. But if they are left to dry up early in the fall, they will be sure to dry up their milk each succeeding year, if they have a calf near the same season of the year; and nothing but extraordinary keeping will prevent it, and that but a short time. I have had them dried up of their milk in August, and could not by any means

make them give milk much beyond that time in any succeeding year.

I have two cows now, that were milked the first year they had calves till the time of their calving again, and have continued to give milk as late ever since, if we will milk them."

We have seen the efficacy of the above plan verified.—[Editor American Farmer.

## THE ORCHARD.

From the Cultivator.

### SUCKERS FROM FRUIT TREES.

There is a general impression that suckers of fruit trees are less valuable for stocks than seedlings—possessing, it is alleged, less vitality, and exhibiting a stronger tendency to the reproduction of suckers. My experience on this point has been neither very long nor extensive, but as far as it goes, I doubt both of the above assertions.

The plum, cherry, quince, gooseberry, and currant, eminently, and the apple and pear to some extent, seem designed to continue themselves in this mode, as well as to reproduce themselves from seed. The same thing is true of a great many other fruits and flowers, whether produced by woody stems or herbaceous plants. As a philosopher, I would hesitate hastily to question such an arrangement of nature, as unwise, since it is so universally cheap and useful. We have now in this, Oneida, county, the Becker plum—the Lombard of Downing—by the thousand, not one of which, so far as I know, was propagated either by bud or graft. And yet this tree is as thrifty and hardy as a burdock in an old barn yard. The same remark may be made substantially, of other kinds of plums. That a seedling possesses a higher degree of vitality than a bud, graft, or sucker, is perhaps philosophically true, especially when the latter is from an old tree, but when taken from a young tree, the difference may be so slight as practically to be neglected.

Again, the assertion that a sucker exhibits a superinduced tendency to the reproduction of suckers, is in accordance neither with science nor facts. A seedling tree, root and stem, is one homogeneous system. The original stem, standing centrally upon its roots, and a sucker, standing, it may be, four feet distant from the same tree, and based on one of its extended horizontal roots, can hardly be supposed to differ in constitutional tendencies. The parent tree has sent up this sucker, and thus manifested its inherent tendency;

will the sucker be likely to do less or more?

But let us examine the main allegation above alluded to, that suckers exhibit less vitality than seedlings. A standard seedling tree is found upon examination in the autumn, to exhibit at the collar, below it, or upon some extended root, a small bud or buds. In the succeeding spring these buds throw up shoots of vigorous growth, dependent, for the time being, on the parent tree. In the latter parts of the same season, but sometimes not until the succeeding one, such a sucker forms a collar, just beneath the surface of the earth, from which it throws out in regular order, an abundance of horizontal roots. Soon after this, the tap-root which connects with the parent tree, and which, for the time, had been its sole radical dependence, becomes nearly obliterated. You have now, at the end of the first or second year, a perfect tree, whose sucker origin cannot be inferred from any thing in its appearance. Its origin in a little bud, on the healthful root of a young tree, may have combined as much vitality as would be involved in its origin from a seed borne at the top of the tree; certainly as much as would be found in a bud or graft from the same tree. In this case you have the advantage, moreover, if the tree were a valuable variety, of its propagation upon its own roots. There may be cases in which a tree, valuable for its fruit, has always exhibited a sickly and feeble root. In such cases the variety should be extended by buds and grafts set upon healthful stocks. There is another consideration. A tree, even when well situated in regard to climate, soil and position, will usually exhibit greater hardiness, and more abiding health of root, than of stem. Mechanical accidents, insects, and the influence of unfavorable seasons, one or all, may seriously affect the stem, while the root remains in comparative health. In this case, the renewal of the tree by heading back, or by propagating it from sprouts already existing, is a matter of obvious propriety. It is, I think, a statement of Loudon, in his Encyclopedia of Gardening, that the English nurserymen, who cultivate hard wood trees, frequently head back young trees, once or even twice, before they get a stem that is healthful and vigorous. Indeed, nature herself often does this, throwing up a stout side shoot or sucker, to supercede the parent tree, where disease or accident had injured it.

It may be further observed, that many trees, propagated by buds and grafts, exhibit imperfect adaptations to the new stock. Here the union is never quite perfect and healthful. Now

this difficulty is avoided by the propagation of such trees by suckers. Nay, farther, a difference of season of maturity, or chemical character of circulation, frequently exists between the stock and the budded or grafted top, so that the fruit is defoliated before it is ripened, in consequence of the earlier maturity of the stock; or its fruit injured by the astringent character of the sap of the same stock. It were clearly better to use natural suckers of a good variety, than to propagate it on such stocks. In conclusion, I infer that it is safer to follow nature in all cases, where she prompts strongly to the continuance of a variety by suckers; and that, therefore, there is no objection to the use of suckers, as stocks for buds and grafts, simply on the ground that they are suckers; and that, though in particular cases, suckers may exhibit less of vitality and shapeliness than seedlings, their general utility is not affected by that origin. The method so much resorted to in Europe, of propagation by *layering*, is analogous to propagation by suckers, though obviously a less natural, shapely, and healthful mode.

Suckers, if removed before they form collars and horizontal roots, are almost in the state of cuttings, and will often die, or dwindle for two or three years, before they recover and grow rapidly. Hence they should not be removed till well supplied with horizontal roots. Suckers, too, that spring up in a well cultivated soil, will make much better trees than those which spring up in neglected positions. Suckers sometimes come up in close bundles. It is then always best to thin them out to two or three, since otherwise, they cannot root well, or if they do, cannot be separated safely.

C. E. G.

CHICKENS vs. THE CURCULIO.—We clip the following from a communication of A. G. Sumner, Esq., of Ravenscroft, South Carolina, which appeared in the Pendleton "Farmer and Planter" for February:

For plums, apricots and nectarines, so liable to the attacks of the curculio, there is no remedy but *poultry*. Plant these where your poultry have a daily run among them. I have adopted this plan, and have not found a single tree attacked by the root-worm in my grounds. It takes more than a dozen hens, and a gouty old cock, to keep a few acres of these delicate trees clear of their enemies; a flock of a hundred is not too many."

SUMMER GRAFTING.—M. Loiseau employs, for cleft and crown grafting, in April, May, and June, eyes, which at the base of

the shoots, buds or branches of the preceding year, have not been developed. After the end of June, when the young shoots have become a little hard, they may, after their leaves are cut off, be grafted just as the same branches would be grafted in the following spring. If the shoots are still too tender, it is well to varnish them with grafting wax. M. Loiseau made, in this way, from the month of May to September, more than 150 plants, both from seeds and stones, and he did not lose more than one-fifth, although his experiments were made on very dry soil, and no care was taken to protect the graft from being destroyed by birds, or by the dryness produced by the great heat of the months of June and July. He even succeeded in cleft-grafting an apricot in July. In May, two out of thirteen grafts failed; in June, three out of twelve; in July, three out of fifteen; in August, none out of twelve. It may be as well to remark, that a tree cleft, grafted in May, June, and even early in July, very nearly overtakes that grafted in the spring, and there is very little difference between the two at the end of the year. Moreover, the cleft graft, if made in summer, begins to grow after a week, while the bud does not begin to grow till the end of a fortnight. The cleft graft has also this advantage over the bud—that the former does not require the bark to be separated, indeed, the less sap there is in this graft the better.—*Comptes Rendus*.

SWEET AND SOUR.—Mr. Joseph Poor, of Goffstown, has an apple tree upon his farm, which bears a fruit which is both sweet and sour, the two qualities being in regular layers. We have eaten of the fruit and know the thing whereof we affirm.—The method of producing this singular result was in this wise: a bud was taken from a N. York greening and one from a yellow sweetening—they were cut in two, and half of each placed together and the tree thus innoculated. The fruit has the characteristics above stated—the sweet and sour being clearly divided not only to the taste but to the sight.—*Nashua (N. H.) Telegraph*.

The Editor of the Western Agriculturist knows of another example in which the apple was composed of three segments of sweet and three of sour, each distinct in color and taste.

## THE GARDEN.

## REMARKS FOR THE MONTH.

Well, May Day is here again, and now the gardener may look for the weather to bring forward his plants. April was, as usual, wet, cold, discouraging. In the early part of the month snow fell in considerable quantity. So that but little progress, out of hot beds and sheltered situations, has been made in the growth of plants; but there is time enough yet, and a garden made and planted early this month will undoubtedly be just as productive as if planted a month earlier—especially if judiciously supplied with water when it may be needed. And here one word *en passant* about watering: No cold water should ever be used—the warmer the better so it does not scald the crop. We have seen vegetables pushed along rapidly during a cold, dry spell in the spring by watering them every evening with lukewarm water.

All the suggestions in our April issue which have not yet been attended to may yet be followed up, and in addition several other matters should receive attention at your hands. Beans, cucumbers, summer squashes, melons, sweet corn, pop corn, winter cabbage, peas, salsify, beets, parsnips, carrots, turnips, broccoli and cauliflower, for winter use, may be planted, and cabbage, tomato, celery, egg plant, &c., set out in the open ground as soon as the weather is settled. It is not much use to do it till then. The ground for these plants should be a deep, rich, moist loam, spaded very deep, and finely pulverized, and raked clear of all ungenial substances; then sow over it broadcast a mixture made of equal parts ashes, salt, and lime, and it is ready for the reception of the plants. If you land is not very rich there should be put on it a liberal supply of well rotted stable manure, which should be thoroughly incorporated with the earth in spading. Set your cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower plants three feet apart each way, and let the rows run as near north and south as possible. If you dip the roots of your plants in a mixture made of one part soot, one part sulphur, and two parts garden earth, and the whole reduced with water to the consistency of cream, it will prevent the ravages of the cut-worm and give a start to the growth of the plants.

The Salsify or Vegetable Oyster should

be better known and more extensively cultivated than it is. In flavor it much resembles the oyster—hence its name. When properly cooked it is a healthful and delicious root. It may be boiled like parsnips, then seasoned and served up with melted butter, or after boiling, mashed and mixed with flour and eggs and fried as batter cakes—either way it is highly esteemed. In its cultivation you should select a deep, rich, sandy loam, which should be well manured and the manure thoroughly incorporated with the soil by the spade, and the ground completely pulverised, the deeper the better. Plant in rows running north and south, 10 inches apart, drilling in the seed about half an inch deep, cover with the rake or the hand, and press the earth down on the seed. When the plants are one or two inches high, thin them out so as to stand four inches apart, and keep them clear of weeds and grass.

In the culture of cucumbers, we know no better directions than those contained in the first article in the last number of the *Valley Farmer*, and we accordingly refer to them. The same treatment may be pursued with melons and squashes, only that the hills of the running varieties of the latter should not be placed quite so near together.

From the American Agriculturist.

*Turnips.*—From the numerous varieties of this species of vegetable, I select the “early white” and “red top,” as best for the table. By some the ruta бага when about half grown is most esteemed, chiefly, however, I suspect, on account of keeping sound through the winter, which certainly is a valuable consideration with the lovers of turnips. On the 19th of April, I sowed the ruta бага, “yellow Aberdeen,” “yellow stone,” and “yellow Malta,” with the view of ascertaining what size the larger of these varieties would attain, when having a long season to grow in; but I was disappointed. In the early part of August they began to show signs of decay, and toward the latter part of the month, they were mostly rotten. Those left were of large size, though not larger than those I had from sowing later; but very hard, and I am convinced it is better to defer sowing until a later period. For my own part, I consider the chief value of turnips in being a secondary crop, maturing in a short season, after the ground has been occupied by a little more profitable growth. For fodder it is the

least valuable of all the agricultural roots, and but little prized as a culinary vegetable. Sowing in drill, I prefer to broadcast, thinning the plants from eight to fourteen inches, according to the variety grown, keeping the rows free from weeds by timely hoeing, leaving the larger portions of the root exposed.

**Beets.**—The “long smooth blood beet” I selected from twelve varieties I this year cultivated as best for table use, but I always sow a few of the “early turnip-rooted,” pink variety, with the view of having as large an assortment of early vegetables as possible. These, as well as early carrots and early turnips, I have grown between the rows of Lima beans, and before the vines shade the ground, the beets, turnips, and carrots are suitable for the table; hence a saving of ground which especially in a small enclosure is desirable.

For cattle, the mangold-wurtzel and white-sugar beet are most profitable, which, with those mentioned, and a few “Swiss chard,” for the sake of variety and their handsome appearance, are all that I intended another year to cultivate. Ground for beets as well as carrots should be deeply spaded and thoroughly pulverized. The mangold wurtzel and sugar beet, should be thinned to the distance of 12 inches, other varieties from six to eight.

**Parsnips.**—This vegetable, though esteemed by many, I make but little use of; consequently I cultivate only a small bed, chiefly for variety, and apply similar treatment as that of other tap-rooted vegetables.

**Carrots.**—For table use I prefer the “early horn;” the other four varieties are valuable for fodder, but at present am not prepared to estimate their respective merits. For bordering a kitchen garden, carrots are very desirable, appearing early in spring and continuing late in autumn, their bright and handsomely formed leaves making a neat edging, which, in connection with their valuable roots, possesses the advantage of being both ornamental and useful.

**Salsify**—(*oyster plant*.)—Requiring a long season to grow in, the seed should be put in the ground as early in the spring as possible. To bring this plant to perfection, it should be grown in deep, rich soil, and thinned to the distance of eight inches, and kept thoroughly clean. In the absence of proper cultivation, the roots are slender, mis-shapen, and of but little value, but with attention, attain a handsome size, and are well worthy the attention necessary to be bestowed

upon them. I have derived benefit during their growth by occasionally forcing the blade of an ordinary garden spade its entire length, between the rows; thus keeping the ground loose, they grow more freely, producing smoother and in all respects handsomer roots.

#### HOW TO MISMANAGE A GARDEN.

From a series of chapters in the London Agricultural Gazette, on the above named subject, we select the following sarcastic directions as adopted by the mismanager in the use and application of water:

Water is not an uncommon source of profit to the mismanager. It is quite astonishing, indeed, how easily this element may be made to assist in spoiling a garden.

Foolish people say that it is part of the food by which plants exist, and that it requires to be administered with care, skill, and discretion. But your geniuses are not to be bamboozled by fine names, or what the world calls authority. They know better. How, indeed, can any thing be fed on water? Can a man, or a horse, or a sheep? Even a goose on a common won't live on water, but must have grass. How, then, should a plant? The opinion of the mismanager is decidedly that water is of no other use than to moisten the soil, and therefore he keeps his soil as wet as he can.

He has also his own ways of applying it. When he waters the plants in his borders, he gives them “just a sprinkle,” by holding the watering can high, and allowing the drops to dash on the ground “quite natural like.” By repeating this operation once a day, he will by degrees bring his ground to a nice, hard surface, so as to keep in the heat and be easily raked. It is true that hard hot ground is not favorable to the admission of water; but then it has the advantage of looking well; and besides, if water is poured on it, somewhere or other it must go, and it will be sure to find its way to the roots—if it does not find its way to the gravel walks or a neighboring ditch.

In like manner, if plants are in pots, they should be deluged overhead, from a coarse rosed watering can. When you see the water running out of the hole in the bottom of the pot, you can be under no mistake that plants have had enough. It is true that a good deal of soil and other matters run out of the pot along with the water, but that is

of no consequence; there is the more room in the pot for a further supply of water. It is true that little or no water remains in the pot, the ball of earth being too hard to receive it—but that also is of no importance, because it is so easy to water it again.

Some people, on the other hand, soak their potted plants very gently, and when the ball of earth has taken all it can, they then remove it carefully from the water. But that is troublesome, takes up a great deal of time, slops a man's legs, and is merely a fancy of folks who pretend to be wiser than their neighbors.

Another method to be particularly recommended is, to water trees in the open ground by pouring down water at the foot of the stem. The man who has genius for mismanagement knows the advantage of that. Water is to moisten roots—the biggest roots are at the foot of the stem—therefore water should be applied to the foot of the stem. It must be owned that the advantage of the practice is not apparent, unless a heavy fall of rain should occur immediately afterwards—but as the reasoning is correct the practice must be right.

It will be evident that the plans of the mismanager are far more judicious than those of the man who contrives to irrigate his beds by pouring a gentle stream over them. If it were only because so much labor is saved by irrigation, such a Frenchified way ought never to be adopted. It is just as absurd as that plan of warming water in tanks artificially heated or exposed to the sun, before using it. Who would drink lukewarm, flat water, if he could get it fresh and cold from a deep well—and why should a plant like it? As to warming it by hot water pipes, that is about the silliest scheme of the modern pretenders to a knowledge of gardening. A laboring man might as soon think of washing his hands and face in warm water. Besides, plants cannot feel. If you ask our friend, the genius, whether he does not think that warm water would agree better than cold with a laborer in a violent perspiration, or who had been stewing all day in a hothouse, he triumphantly asks if a plant is a man. It may be true that tropical plants come from countries where cold water is unknown—perhaps they do—perhaps they don't. At any rate the mismanager will teach them how to bear it;—

and it cannot be denied that to harden plants is an object with all real gardeners.

Never have a syringe in your garden. What is the use of a syringe? It only throws water on leaves; but where is the advantage of moistening leaves? Even if plants did feed on water, they would not feed by their leaves. You might as well put a man's roast beef under his arm pit and expect him to fatten by it. Still more repugnant to all the mismanager's ideas is the foolish habit of syringing the walls and brick paths of a green house. What is the use of that? What good can it do a plant to throw water on a brick wall not within a yard of it? No, no; keep the footpaths dry and nice to walk upon; keep the walls dry too—(if you do not they are very likely to be covered with "green") and then you will make things comfortable. If you do employ a syringe be sure to use it most when vines are in flower, and afterwards when they are in fruit; and in the greenhouse, first when the flowers are opening, and next when the wood is ripening—when they are making their growth it is of no consequence.—*Gardeners' Chronicle.*

From the Horticulturist.

THE VALUE OF CARROTS.—Very few persons are aware of the fact, that young carrots are among the most wholesome of vegetables, and greatly assist digestion. French cooks, in many of their stewed dishes; introduce small slices of young carrots, and the *Julienne* soup, so common on every French table, is seasoned with finely chopped vegetables—young carrots being the most important, and the difference in digestion between a dinner eaten at a French *cafe*, and an English hotel, is not alone in the cooking, but in the vegetable condiments introduced. It is only lately that the chemists have explained the digestive stimulus known to exist in the carrot, to consist in a peculiar acid—*pectic acid*—found in this vegetable.

After saying so much, with a view to the promotion of a better understanding with the carrot in our kitchen gardens, we quote the following in corroboration from the *Working Farmer*, calculated to increase the field cultivation of this useful vegetable:

"Two bushels of oats and one of carrots, is better food for a horse than three bushels of oats; and when used for light work, the quantity of carrots may be increased. With such food horses will enjoy good health and spirits, a loose hide,

shining coat, and a good digestion. It may be thus explained: The carrot is very nutritious, and; in addition, has the curious property of gelatinizing the watery solutions contained in the stomach of the horse. Carrots contain pectic acid, a single drop of which mixed with the juice of an orange or other fruit, immediately turns it into a jelly, and the Paris confectioners use it for this purpose. Soups in which carrots have been boiled, are always gelatinous when cold, and are more easily digested when used as food, than soups otherwise made.

"The bene plant has similar properties. A thin slice of this plant thrown into a glass of water, renders it ropy and gelatinous, and for this reason it is a specific for summer complaint in children.

"By examining the dung of a horse fed on carrots, it will be found to contain no undigested hay or roots, and therefore less quantities of these materials are necessary than when half of the amount swallowed is parted with in an undigested state. For fattening animals the carrot is equally valuable, and for milch cows they surpass any other food. The milk of a cow at mid-winter fed on carrots, is equal in flavor to that supplied from clover in summer, while the butter made from the milk is finely colored and highly flavored."

#### TO ACCELERATE THE GERMINATION OF SEEDS.

—When a gardener has some choice and scarce seeds, or when he is endeavoring to raise a particularly early crop, he takes more than ordinary care with them. He selects some good soil sows his seed, waters them enough but not too much, and takes the greatest care to fit all the conditions to the nature and requirements of the young plants. If he is anxious to hurry on the germination of the seeds, so as to bring the young plants forward as rapidly as possible, he gives them a little bottom heat, sowing the seeds in fine mould resting on half rotten dung, because under those circumstances, the gentle heat of the still fermenting manure, and the vapors which it gives out, are highly favorable to the germination of the seeds. This is one of the best known modes of raising young plants; for notwithstanding all that has been said about seed steeping and other wonderful modes of accelerating the growth of plants, we have at the present, no more powerful mode of aiding germination, and forcing the growth of young plants. This is the plan adopted by the best gardeners with their choicest seeds.—[Garden Chronicle.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

### WARREN HASTINGS AND GEO. WASHINGTON.

"Look upon this picture, and on this,  
The counterfeit presentment of two brothers."

HAMLET.

In glancing, the other day, over a short biographical sketch of the Governor General of India, I noticed that the year of his birth was the same as that of Washington. This simple coincidence struck me forcibly, but when in continuation so many accidental points of similarity in their history present themselves, (now that the attention was turned in that direction,) while the contrast in every thing else was startling and so strongly marked, my mind was deeply impressed by these strange coincidents and stranger contrasts.

Both, as was said, were born in the same year. Both were early orphans. Both deprived of the advantages of a thorough education—for no college crowned either with its honors, no academy welcomed either to its secluded bowers. Yet both manifested early the lavish gifts of nature, and the promptings of an honorable and self relying ambition. The same winter in which one was penetrating the unknown wilds of the Virginia forest, commencing his career as a Surveyer; the other too, yet but a boy, in quest of fortune left his native land, and went forth to the Indies upon the slender hopes and slender stipend of a clerkship. Each advanced by the force of his own energy and ability. Both, while yet in the first flush of manhood, were turned by public calamities into soldiers. While one was retrieving the rashness of a veteran General, saving his country from the Indians of the western wilds, and vindicating British honor on the fields of defeat, at the same time the other, serving under the same government, was rescuing the banner of St. George from the grasp of Linajah Howlah, and turning back the Indians of the east upon the plains of Palassery and by the banks of the Hoo-gley. Again both returned to civil life. The one took his seat in the Virginia House of Burgesses, the other in the board of the council of Madras. The sphere of each was rapidly enlarging. The eyes of the civilized world were fixed upon the British Colonies in America, and the British possessions in India. On these grand theatres were enacting respectfully the rise and downfall of nations. Who shall be the great tragedians! Within a year, in which Warren Hastings became Governor General of India,

George Washington took command of the American army, the forlorn hope of freedom of the New World. Here the coincidence closes and the contrasts commence. Each has now reached the pinnacle of power. Each possesses unbounded opportunities for good or evil. How will these opportunities be used or abused? Have we anything in their past life by which to judge? A fact in reference to each will show that with them as is mostly the case, the mind took even in childhood that bent which would influence it through life.

The one employed his leisure moments, when a school-boy, in composing and collecting a code of rules to govern his actions, even in copying deeds, draughts, &c., in order to perfect himself in the details of business, and was ever a ready peace-maker among his comrades—the other reclining on the banks of the Iris, in sight of the alienated possession of his ancestors, fed his young fancy in gorgeous dreams of wealth and power, wild projects of self-ambition and personal aggrandizement. He would recover the estates that had belonged to his fathers, he too would be Hastings of Daylesford. How faithfully now was each about to fulfil the destination shadowed forth prophetically by these simple incidents. The one regardless of personal interest, renounced the government he had served when it became subversive of the liberty of his countrymen the other in pursuit of his own emoluments oversteps the tyranny, even the almost unbounded licence of the same government. To one was entrusted the destiny of a young and feeble nation, struggling with life. He felt upon him not only the weight of the present, but the responsibility of the fearful future.

But he shrank from no duty—he shunned no sacrifice. When the rising hopes of his country seemed about to go down in darkness and in blood, he breathed into desponding patriotism the breath of life. He became the Moses of our Israel. He led them through a Red Sea, guided them in a wilderness, and while their garments were yet purple, while their locks were yet wet with mist of the Jordan through which they had come up, he brought them into the land—not of promise alone—but of astonishing and glorious fulfilment. The chosen leader now became the beloved ruler. He sought no power. He shrank as he touchingly said from “the mighty and untried duties before” him. But the ratification of his rule was the joyous shouts of the whole enfranchised people exulting in their new born lib-

erty. Everywhere he now trod literally a flower path bestrewn with fragrant offerings by virgin loveliness and maternal gratitude. Power absolute and indispensable was within his grasp. But he harkened not to the stifled whispers of an unhallowed ambition. He ruled the people to save them. And when he had established their freedom, he turned aside from proffered power, from an imperial crown and kingly diadem, to the obscurity of private life—

“How shall we rank thee upon glory’s page,  
Thou more than soldier and just less than sage—  
All thou hast been reflects less fame on thee,  
Far less than all thou hast foreborne to be.”

To the other was entrusted, too, the destiny of a nation, not of three millions, but of one hundred and fifty millions of people. Robert Cline, a clerk in a Madras factory, had laid the foundation of the British empire in India. Trading posts and commercial privileges were all that were solicited by the English in return for services rendered to the daughter of a native prince by an army surgeon. These were freely granted. On this foundation Warren Hastings erected a towering superstructure, whose blighting shadows darkened a million of square miles of territory. By bribery, intimidation, cruelty, and massacre, he made himself master of an empire. Then was displayed that most dreadful of all spectacles the strength of civilization without its mercy. Terror stalked in his footsteps. Hope affrighted fled before him. He beheaded or drowned princes at pleasure. He gave away thrones on which had sat the heirs of Tamerlane. Even his wife was the wife of another. Surrounded by power and splendor, “equal to that of a Roman proconsul in the days of Cæsar,” by dismay and wretchedness from the pine forests of the north to the cinnamon groves of cape Commorn. But he too, must resign his power. Though his splendid administrative abilities had dazzled the eyes of the British nation, and hid his gigantic crimes yet a day of reckoning was at hand. He returns to his native land a criminal on trial. For eight years he was awaiting the verdict of an incensed people, and at last is acquitted only because pity had taken the place of indignation. Broken in spirit, broken in fortune and an outcast from humanity, he hid his head among the shadows of Daylesford to die.

Thus both of these men who filled during the latter part of the last century, probably, a larger space in the eye of the world than any others ended their days. The one in ignominy, the other in honor; the one in solitary shame, the other in

unfurnished glory. The name of Hastings will "live in the pantheon of history." On the shores of the Ganges, says a traveler, the Hindoo mother hushes her child by the tone of Warren Hastings. The name of Washington, too, is taught by maternal love to lisping infancy. His monument is his country. His name is freedom's war cry over the world. It is a name "to live evermore," and when thrones are crumbled and the name of their possessors forgotten, it will stand the land mark of a country's history, rearing itself amid the ruins of empires, and the dissolution of nations, a beacon amid surrounding darkness, an eternal pyramid in the solitude of time.

—o—  
In the human skeleton there are two hundred and fifty-two square bones. Hard working people sometimes have an extra number, which are formed near the joints of the thumb, fore-finger and toes. They are useful in increasing the power of the muscles wherever they grow.

### EDUCATION.

For the Valley Farmer.

#### "SUBTERRANEAN SCHOOL ROOMS."

MR. EDITOR,—It would be a mere waste of ink and paper to say any thing about what you term "subterranean school rooms," were theory and practice perfectly agreed in regard to them. While science, applied to the laws which govern health, demonstrates them to be totally unfit for human residences, practice encourages their use. It would seem that but little need be said about them—they speak for themselves.

If we lived among the Esquimaux, or some other savage tribes, where subterranean houses are in vogue, and where the people burrow, like rabbits, in the earth, we should probably be satisfied with underground school rooms, but as we live in an enlightened country, and in the nineteenth century, or aspirations are, our should be, higher. We talk about the laws of health, and yet we utterly repudiate, in action, the idea that health is governed by any law. Perhaps I am trenching upon ground that more properly should be submitted to a committee of physicians to investigate, but the subject is of interest, and may not unprofitably be considered a little by one out of the profession.

"Subterranean school rooms" are most fashionable and best patronised in cities, and the remarks I make are perhaps more applicable to the city than to the country.—Children in cities are proverbially unhealthy—is not the sending of children to such school rooms one among the many reasons that may be assigned for this? Children will not vegetate, like cabbages, down cellar, or if they do, it will be a vegetation that shows the want of light and air, a sickly growth that will soon wilt and die, without producing mature fruit.

Basement rooms are necessarily damp, and either poorly ventilated or totally destitute of ventilation. The idea of healthy mental or physical development in such rooms is utterly absurd. It is true, I suppose, that the "young idea" may be taught to shoot in such a place, but instead of shooting from a vigorous, healthy body, it will be at the expense of health, if not of life. A man of robust constitution may and probably would resist the influences of such an atmosphere for some time—not so the young and tender child. The lordly oak will endure the raging storms of winter, and the scorching heats of summer, and remain unscathed: not so the tender flower. The child needs, and must have or suffer, pure and abundant supplies of the fresh air of heaven. Its little lungs expand with delight as they drink it in. Deprive him of it and the pale and sallow complexion and the contracted chest will tell the sad story. When hundreds of small children are crowded into one of these basement-subterranean rooms for months it is a wonder that any escape with health, not to say life. Let the people see to it. They have the right to insist that schools and school rooms shall be above ground, at least above the foul damp air of a cellar. Such rooms should be voted a nuisance, and abolished.

I am pleased to notice that the Board of Directors of Public Schools have had their attention directed to this point, and that, in the last two school houses erected, they have omitted the "subterranean room," in which to vegetate the young idea before it is transplanted to the grammar school. All is above board, and no pleasanter rooms can be found in the city in which children receive instruction.

J. D. L.

St. Louis, March, 1851.

# VALLEY FARMER.

ST. LOUIS, MAY, 1851.

**REMOVAL.**—The Printing Office of the Valley Farmer has been removed to No. 161 North Fourth street, between Green and Morgan streets, where the Editor of the paper will be happy to see his friends at all times.

Extra copies of the Valley Farmer will be cheerfully sent for gratuitous circulation to all who may desire to use them in this manner, and will pay the postage on them. Missing numbers of the first volume, except the numbers for July, August, and October, and all the numbers of the second volume neatly bound, which we will furnish at the cost of binding over the subscription price; and subscribers who may wish their numbers faithfully bound, can have it cheaply done, by sending us their numbers in good order.

**THE NEW POSTAGE LAW.**—This law will go into operation on the 1st of July next. By it most of our subscribers will save a portion of the expense of postage. It will undoubtedly effect a very considerable increase in the correspondence of the country. Some of the provisions of the new law are these:

The postage on all *pre-paid* letters, not weighing more than half an ounce, within 3 000 miles will be three cents; when not *pre-paid*, five cents; over 3,000 miles, double those rates. [When a person writes a letter, on his own account, requiring an answer, he may enclose postage stamps, with which to *pre-pay* the answer.]

The rates of postage on the VALLEY FARMER, and other monthly publications of a like nature, will be within 50 miles, five cents a year; over 50 and within 300 miles, ten cents; over 300 and within 1,000 miles, fifteen cents; over 1,000 and within 2,000 miles, twenty cents; over 2,000 and within 4,000 miles, twenty-five cents; over 4,000 miles, thirty cents a year.

Weekly newspapers to pay four times and daily double those rates. Newspapers published weekly or oftener to circulate free in the county where published.

Books—bound or unbound—are chargeable at the rate of one cent an ounce, for any distance not more than 500 miles; over 500 and not more than 1,500 miles, 2 cents; over 1,500 and not more

than 2 500 miles, three cents; over 2,500 and not more than 3,500 miles, four cents; over 3,500 miles, five cents.

Considerable fault is found with this law so far as it relates to papers and books, by some of our eastern brethren of the press, who contend that the pay for carrying a book or newspaper should be the same, whether it goes five miles or five thousand! Wonder if they wouldn't like a law that would suppress entirely all publications except a few hailing from the eastern cities?

THE VALLEY FARMER is now in a far way to attain that position which such a publication should occupy, and of which we have labored hard to make it worthy. During the past month we have received many encouraging letters from our friends in the country, for which they will please accept our sincere thanks. We give one or two extracts. The first is from a gentleman in Holt county, Mo., who had sent one club previously this year:

"The people of our fine county—which cannot be surpassed in the State in point of soil and water (our staple commodities—especially wheat—commanding the highest prices in the St. Louis market)—are at last getting their eyes open in regard to your valuable paper—the Valley Farmer. I herein inclose the subscription amount for four numbers for the present year, commencing with the January number. In a few days I will be able to send you another list, and next year I think that I will be able to send you a whole host!"

That's the right talk! We wish the west was full of such men; we could brag some on it then. By the way, if we ever get that far from home we must visit this goodly county of Holt and its adjacent territory, and mayhap drop in upon our friends in Hickory county, from whence we receive the following:

"I have been taking your valuable paper ever since it has been published, and am so well pleased with it that I would not be without it for any consideration. I have been trying to do something for you in the way of getting subscribers in my neighborhood, and have succeeded in procuring a club of seven, a list of which is appended. I shall endeavor to send word, for I am anxious to get the paper circulated here, hoping it may stimulate those who read it to farm on different principles."

"We have no doubt it will thus stimulate them, and if they will give heed to the advice contain-

ed in its pages (not our advice, but the experience of practical farmers all over the country) we feel confident they will be benefitted more than ten times the cost of their subscriptions. Every friend of agricultural improvement, then, should foster a publication which is so emphatically "*The Farmer's Own Paper*."

#### AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY IN COOPER COUNTY.

—We have been favored within a few days past with a visit from our good friend and efficient agent Mr. E. W. Brown, of Cooper Co., from whom we learn that the farmers of that goodly county are about organizing themselves into a society for the purpose of advancing the interests of their business, exciting ambition for improvement, and communicating to each other the results of their experience and observations. Right glad are we to hear it; and right glad should we be if every other county in the State would follow the example. We hope our friends will en-

acknowledge that he has been many times overpaid the cost of the subscription. It is conducted with an intelligence on the subject of agriculture and industry that few, if any similar journals in the Union can boast of, and only needs to be known to be appreciated. No farmer will regret the money spent in subscribing for it.

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# MISNUM

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elit of all. In this way the stock of a district might be greatly improved, and yet no one individual have to expend a large sum of money. We shall be glad to do all in our power to bring about so desirable a result.

**VICTORY WHEAT DRILL.**—We had the pleasure of examining this implement a few days since at the manufactory of Miller and Henry, and feel convinced that it will admirably meet the wants of the farmers of the West. It is peculiarly adapted to the prairie, and with it one man can seed we should suppose 30 acres in a day. A more particular description of it will be given in our next.

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*Resolved*, That the interests of the City and County of St. Louis, as well as of Warren, Callaway and other western counties in this State, would be promoted by the construction of a Plank Road from Howell's Ferry, on the Missouri, to the city of St. Louis.

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"The time for the awarding of my third premium of \$150, viz: that 'for the best Missouri wine, vintage 1850,' is at hand. I have deferred the time for the test till Saturday, the last of May, to enable every wine growing county to send its samples. Therefore, you will send to me, before said day, the samples accompanied by testimonies on oath, regarding the situation of the vineyard, the vintage, and the quality of the growth. The sooner this is done the better, in order that the wine may be well cleared before the test.

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These sales will present a rare opportunity to farmers, dairy men, and stock raisers, and amateurs to obtain choice animals, and we hope a goodly portion of their fine stock will find its way into our great valley. We would suggest that farmers living in neighborhoods join together and send one of their number or some other judicious person to make purchases for the benefit of all. In this way the stock of a district might be greatly improved, and yet no one individual have to expend a large sum of money. We shall be glad to do all in our power to bring about so desirable a result.

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Books of subscription were at once opened, and nine thousand dollars of stock taken.

The stockholders then adjourned, to meet again in the Court House, in St. Louis, on Tuesday, 6th May, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

From the German American.

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

From the National Intelligencer.

### AGRICULTURAL GEOLOGY.

BY JOSIAH HOLBROOK.

Number Five.

Hornblend is more tough than hard. So its name indicates. It enters largely into rock. Hornblend rocks form some of the most beautiful and sublime mountain and landscape scenery in the world. The Giant's Causeway, is the northeast part of Ireland; the Palisades, on the banks of the Hudson river; the Bluffs, called East and West Rock, each about two miles from New Haven, Connecticut; Mount Holyoke and Mount Tom, on the Connecticut river; the richest landscape scenery on the Columbia and other rivers in Oregon; and many other views, both rich and beautiful, in different parts of the world, are hornblend rocks. The scenery about Edinburg, Scotland, is said to resemble very nearly that about New Haven, Connecticut, exhibited by the same geological formation—basaltic columns. In both these cities it is common and almost the only building material, being admirably fitted for the gothic style of architecture. Some poet said of the citizens of Edinburg, who have very much impaired the natural scenery about the city for the purposes of architecture, that they had so little taste that they had sold the sublime and beautiful by the cartload. These columns are very much in the form of hexahedral prisms, from six inches to a foot or two in diameter. The length of the blocks forming the prisms are frequently about equal to their diameter. Each block is concave or hollowed at one end and convex or rounded at the other. The sides of prism are also as exactly fitted as the cells of a honey comb, and of the same shape.

The most remarkable exhibition of this natural mountain mechanism is the Giant's Causeway, where these hexahedral columns, so perfectly matched, cover a great surface, and rise to the height of two or three hundred feet. The inhabitants of the country, at some ancient period supposed it to be the work of giants living there at a period still more ancient.

The property of toughness in hornblend very much modifies the character of the rocks of which it forms a part. For many purposes they are the most durable of all rocky formations. The Russ pavements, introduced into New York, are formed of a rock from Staten Island almost hornblend, having a little quartz in fine grains in-

terspersed through the mass. Though called Staten Island granite, it is very different, and entirely superior to any granite formation correctly so called. No rock upon the globe could probably be found more durable or better fitted for such pavements than this hornblend taken from Staten Island.

**EXPERIMENT.**—Draw a circle by a pair of dividers. Not changing the distance of the legs, place one point of the circumference of the circle drawn, dividing it into equal parts. It will thus form in the circumference six points equally distant from each other. Unite these points by lines drawn by the dividers, and the result will be a regular hexagon, showing the shape of basaltic columns, quartz crystals, beryl, emerald, apatite, cells of the honeycomb, and many other specimens of "NATURAL MECHANISM."

The following philosophical dissertation upon the valuable uses of the Pig, which we take from the Cincinnati Gazette, will probably be read with interest by many:

**THE PIG IN CINCINNATI.**—What crocodiles were in Egypt, what cows are in Bengal, or storks in Holland, pigs are in Cincinnati, with this trifling difference—their sacredness of character lasts but as long as their mortal coil; and this is abbreviated without ceremony, and from the most worldly motives. In life the pig is free—is honored; he ranges the streets; he reposes in thoroughfares; he walks between your horse's legs, or your own; he is everywhere respected; but let the thread of existence be severed, and, shade of Mahomet! what a change! They think, in Cincinnati, of nothing but making the most of him. How many of this kind perish annually, to cement the vast prosperity of the city, cannot be told.

About fifteen years ago, when it contained only one-fifth of its existing population, a few bold speculators began the trade. Selecting the hams and sides of the animal, they made pickled pork; of the rest they took small account. Soon, however, the idea occurred to one more acute than his fellows, that the heads and the feet—nay, even the spine and the vertebrae—might be turned to account. Trotters and cheeks had their partisans, and these parts looked up in the market. About this time the maker of sausages caught up the inspiration; they found those luxuries saleable; and so many Pigs were to be slaughtered, that the butchers were willing to do it for nothing; that is to say for the perquisite of the entrails and offal alone.

The next step was due the genius of France. A Frenchman established a brush manufactory and created a market for the bristles; but his ingenuity was outdone by one of his countrymen, who soon after arrived. This man was determined, it seems, to share the spoil; and thinking nothing else left, collected the fine hair or wool, washed, dried and curled it, and stuffed mattresses with it. But he was mistaken in thinking nothing else left. As but little was done with the lard, they invented machines and squeezed oil of it; the refuse they threw away. Mistaken men again! This refuse was the substance of stearine candles, and made a fortune to the discoverer of that secret. Lastly came one who could press chemistry into the service of mammon. He saw the blood of the countless swine flow throw the gutters of the city; it was all that was of them, but it went to his heart to see it thrown away. He pondered long; and then collecting the stream into reservoirs, made prussiate or potash from it by the ton. The pig was used up.

#### THE EFFECTS OF PLANK ROADS.

A correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, gives, upon the authority of W. Kingsford, engineer on the Hudson river railroad, the following facts, showing the effect of plank roads on the road as an investment.

But the most surprising statements in the book referred to, is the effect of plank roads upon the trade of towns and the value of property along their lines. The traffic over the road of eleven miles, leading into Albany, which was finished in the fall of 1849, has increased 110 per cent. and farms along the line 20 per cent in value. A road from Fonda, to Lake Canoga, in Hamilton county, has raised the value of lands at the latter place from 50 cents to \$2 and \$3 and has reduced the price the price of fire wood at Fonda from six dollars to \$2 70, at which it can now always be purchased.

One hundred and sixty-three miles of plank road may be considered tributary to Utica, and they have increased her business 100 per cent. and her property 15 per cent. They have also lessened the price of cord wood one dollar and a half; and as 35,000 are annually consumed in Utica, \$52,000 are annually saved to the inhabitants, which would build thirty nine miles of plank road, which has increased the storage and forwarding business 33 1/2 per cent., and doubled the amount of travel. Ninety-nine miles of plank road, run into Syracuse, doubling the population

and raising the value of real estate from 15 to 50 per cent depending on localities, and reducing the price of fire wood from six dollars to two dollars and a half a cord, at the same time making the wood worth 50 cents per cord more standing. On the 75,000 cords annually brought from the surrounding country, two hundred and sixty-five thousand five hundred dollars are saved to the inhabitants, which would build 131 miles of road each year. Oswego has leading into it 112 miles of plank road, enhancing the value of property 25 per cent., and doubling the retail trade. There are now constructing about Rochester, 130 miles of plank road, raising the value of city property, about 50 per cent.

Time will allow me to give me Kingsford's facts only on one other point, and that is, the value of plank roads as an investment. The Troy and Lansingburg road has paid off a debt of \$1,400, and divides 20 per cent. per annum, besides laying by a sinking fund. The Rome and Utica road in twelve months has paid off a \$4,000 debt, and is expected to divide 20 per cent. The Utica and Frankfort finished in October, 1849, has paid ten per cent. The Utica and Burlington, 20 per cent. The Rome and Turin earned \$12,000 the first six months, on a cost of \$50,000. The Salina Central Square road is worth now \$110 on \$80 paid in. The Salina, Liverpool and Clay pays ten per cent. The Rome and Oswego ten per cent, both reserving sinking funds. The Allen's Creek road, Rochester, is so profitable that the directors refuse to make any statement. The Aurora and Buffalo road divides 25 per cent.

The above are the facts connected with some of the plank roads in New York. The few which have been properly built in Illinois have yielded monstrous returns, which when known must render these roads a favorite investment. This will form an important adjunct to our railroads, and the day is near at hand when our State will be traversed in all directions by them.

We love the young. There is a rich joyousness, a delightful naivete in the conversation of children, so different from the roughness, or the staid, formal talk of "old folks" or "grown up people." Those who do not love children deserve to grow old at thirty-five and go into dotage at forty.

A man is never irretrievably ruined in his prospects until he marries a bad woman.

If you would know the value of money try to borrow some.

## THE GREAT FAIR.

A correspondent of an eastern paper, who has been looking at the articles sent for the great World's Exhibition, writes from London, under date of March 23d:

In nothing do we excite so great surprise as in our India rubber goods. This is a thing almost unknown in England, the convertibility of India rubber into almost every conceivable thing on earth! "Good Heavens, what is this and this?" were exclamations I constantly heard, as case after case was opened. In daguerreotypes, throughout the whole art we are far ahead. It has been wise to send thus the likeness of our good and great men. My friend, Governor Briggs, has had a crowd all day around his perfect and admirable likeness. Twelve hundred daguerreotypes, handsomely framed and hung judiciously, will not be the least attractive part of our exhibition, and I am told that there are arriving that number of individual portraits.

## ANOTHER GREAT FAIR.

The World's Fair, on Governor's Island next year. The Scientific American contains an account of a meeting of Railroad and Steamboat Companies, held at the Astor House, to take into consideration the increased facilities for travellers which will be required on the occasion of holding such an exhibition. Resolutions favorable to the object were passed, and when the meeting adjourned it was to an early day for the further consideration of the subject. Another paper observes;—The matter is in good hands, and is quietly, but none the less surely walking towards completion. The Astor House has subscribed 5,000 dollars, the New York Hotel 5,000, and other hotels in proportion to their means. A number of our wealthy men have already subscribed, or signified their willingness to subscribe, whenever the money is wanted.

TEMPTING.—The London Morning Post gives the following description of the eatables and drinkables which are now daily served to the good people of London. Its perusal may be interesting to those who contemplate visiting the "World's Fair:"

"Our milk contains every thing but milk, our bread is we know not what, our water is full fighting devils of most ferocious aspect, our white pepper consists chiefly of ground rice, and our black of iron filings and the sweepings of the Custom House floors; and the component parts of our coffee are chickory, burnt beans, and roasted wheat colored with burnt molasses."

## THE FAMILY CIRCLE.

This department will be conducted by  
Mrs. MARY ABBOTT.

## WOMAN'S RIGHTS.

We cannot consider Woman's Rights, as contended for by some, at the present day, in so grave a light as to call upon us to put on "shield and buckler," and come forth and defend them. But we think a few words on this subject would not be amiss in the "Family Circle."

What are *not* the rights of Women, according to the best authority? It is *not* their right to speak in public assemblies. "Let your women keep silence in the churches." "Suffer not a woman to teach or to usurp authority over the man. And "to be keepers at home," says St. Paul, and many more such like passages might be brought from the same source; but enough has been produced to show the mind of inspiration upon this subject. We should infer from this that it is *not* her right to strive for places of political distinction among men.

It is *not* her right to "gad" about and leave the domestic circle to discuss this or that question in the midst of public assemblies; to deal out law, or to act as judge;—no, we should infer the reverse of all this.

What *are* some of Woman's high and noble Rights? For such rights she has. It is her right to make the first bright impress on the immortal mind—the mind which shall exist as long as God himself endures; it is her right to mould and influence minds that are to govern nations and to move the world. A virtuous educated woman has a right to the best love, respect, and honor of her husband, brothers, children and friends, and of all the virtuous and high minded of the other sex. A well informed, intelligent wife who makes herself acquainted with what ever interests her husband and her country will have more influence in swaying his mind on general and political subjects than the greatest orator ever could have; and by remaining in woman's proper sphere she exerts more influence than she possibly could if she were seated in the presidential chair or known as a politician or powerful orator. By leaving her proper station she tramples on modesty and retirement and all that is lovely in woman's character; and thereby loses her best rights—the right of being cherished, honored, and protected—for she claims a right to govern nations and protect herself.

We hope the time will soon come when all this

clamor for Woman's Rights will be put to silence and women who claim unauthorized and absurd rights will return to their duty and their senses.

**A BEAUTIFUL ILLUSTRATION**—by Dr. Cheever.—We find the following admirable illustration by this eminent divine going the rounds of the papers, and publish it for the benefit of our readers. The illustration was used in a sermon on juvenile depravity;—

A florist will tell you if you paint the pot that contains a favorite beautiful flower, the plant will wither, and perhaps its blossom will die. You shut out the air and moisture from passing through the earth to the roots, and the plant itself is poisonous. Just so, mere external cultivation, superficial worldly accomplishment, or a too exclusive anxiety and regard for that injures the soul.

The vase may be ever so beautifully ornamented, but if you deny the water of life to the flower, it must die. And these are kinds of ornamented accomplishments, and the very process which is as deleterious to the soul, as the paint on the flower pot is pernicious to the plant; whose delicate leaves not only inhale a poisonous atmosphere during your very process of rendering the exterior more tasteful, but the whole earth is dried and devoid of nourishment. Nature never paints, but all her forms of loveliness are a growth, a native character, a possession, and development from the beginning. If the sun can ever be called painter, it only because the plants absorb his rays, and receive them into the very texture and life of their vegetation. So, whatever is real knowledge, wisdom, principle, character and life in education, is a process of the absorption and developments of truth—is not mere painting."

**SILENT INFLUENCE.**—It is the bubbling spring which flows gently, the little rivulet which is useful, rather than the swollen flood, or the warring cataract. Niagara excites our wonder, and we stand amazed at the power and the greatness of God there, as he "pours it from the hollow of his hand." But one Niagara is enough for a continent, or the world, while the same world requires thousands and tens of thousands of silvery fountains and gently flowing rivulets, that water every farm and meadow, and every

garden, and that shall flow every day, and every night, with their gentle quiet beauty. So with our lives. It is not by great deeds, like those of a martyr, that good is to be done; it is by the quiet virtues of life—the christian temper, the meek forbearance, the spirit of forgiveness, in the husband, the wife, the father, the mother, the brother, the neighbor, that good is to be done.

To close cracks in stoves through which fire or smoke penetrates, apply, while the stove is hot or cold, a mixture of common salt and fresh wood ashes, made into a paste with water.

**REMEDY FOR BURNS.**—Very simple—Flour relieves the suffering—Dr. Reese, physician of Bellevue Hospital, New York, has been making experiments concerning the best mode of healing burns and scalds and checking the acute suffering. He has found that flour, thrown on is one of the best and most efficient remedies yet discovered. The external air is one of the chief causes of the suffering, and flour thus applied, both heals and closes the wound to the atmosphere. The edges of the wounds which remained open, he dressed with lime-water and oil, applied with a feather. Dr. Reese says the above application made to wounds by fire, hot water, gunpowder, &c., has been most happy in the practice at the Hospital.

If there be a situation wherein woman may be deemed to appropriate angelic attributes, it is when she ministers, as only woman can, to the wants of the invalid! Whose hand like hers can smooth his pillow? Whose voice so effectually silences the querulousness of his temper? Proffered by her, the viand hath an added zest, and even the nauseous medicine is divested of its loathsomeness.

#### BEAUTIFUL ALLEGORY.

A humming bird met a butterfly, and being pleased with the beauty of his person, and the glory of its wings, made an offer of perpetual friendship.

"I cannot think of it," was the reply, "as you once spurned me and called me a drawing dolt."

"Impossible!" exclaimed the humming bird; "I always entertained the highest respect for such beautiful creatures as you."

"Perhaps you do now," said the other, "but when you insulted me I was a caterpillar. So let me give you a piece of advice. Never insult the humble as they may some day become your superiors."

## WORK FOR CHILDREN.

There is no greater defect in educating children than neglecting to accustom them to work. It is an evil that attaches mostly to large towns and cities. Our children suffer much from it. The parent does not consider whether the child's work is necessary to the child. Nothing is more certain than that in their future independence and comfort much depends on their being accustomed to work; accustomed to provide for the thousand constantly recurring wants that nature entails on us. If this were not so still it preserves them from bad habits; it secures their health; it strengthens body and mind; it enables them to bear better the confinement of the school room; and it tends more than any thing else to give them just views of life. Growing up in the world without a knowledge of its cares and toils they view life through a false medium. They cannot appreciate the favors you bestow as they do not know the toils they cost. Their bodies and minds are enervated, and they are constantly exposed to whatever vicious associations are within their reach. The daughter becomes that pitiable, helpless object, a novel reading girl. The son if he surmount the consequence of your neglect, does it after his plans and station for life are fixed, and when knowledge so far as its important objects is concerned, comes to late. No man or woman is fully educated, if not accustomed to manual labor. Whatever accomplishment they possess, whatever their mental training, a deduction must be made for their ignorance of that important chapter in the world's great book.

## THE HAPPY GIRL.

A happy girl is to be known by her fresh looks and buoyant spirits. Day in and day out she has something to do; and she takes hold of work as if she did not fear to soil her hands or dirty her apron. Such girls we respect wherever we find them—in a palace or a hovel. Always pleasant and always kind, they never look haughty before your face or slander you behind your back. They have more sense and better employment. What are flirts and bustle-bound girls in comparison with these? Good for nothing but to look at; and that is rather disgusting. Give us the industrious happy girl, and we care not who worships the fashionable and idle simpleton.

The loss of a friend is like a that of a limb: time may heal the anguish of the wound but the loss cannot be repaired.

## HOME.

He who has no home has none of the pleasures of life; he feels not the thousand endearments that cluster around that hallowed spot to fill the void of his aching heart and while his leisure moments in the sweetest of life's joys. Is misfortune your lot? you will find a friendly welcome from hearts beating true to your own. The chosen partner of your toil has a smile of approbation when others have deserted, a hand to help when others refuse, and a heart to feel your sorrows as her own. Perhaps a smiling cherub, with prattling glee and joyous laugh, will drive all sorrow from your care worn brow, and enclose it in the wreath of domestic bliss.

No matter how humble the home may be, how destitute its stores, or how poorly its inmates are clad; if true hearts dwell there it is yet a home—a cheerful prudent wife, obedient and affectionate children, will give their possessor more real joy than bags of gold and windy honor.

The home of a temperate, industrious honest man will be his greatest joy. He comes to it "weary and worn," but the merry laugh and happy voice of childhood cheers him; a plain but healthy meal awaits him. Envy, ambition, and strife have no place there; and, with a clear conscience, he lays his weary limbs down to rest in the bosom of his family, and under the protecting care of the poor man's friend and help.

## A LESSON FOR GIRLS.

An intelligent gentleman of fortune, says the Bangor Whig, visited a country village in Maine, not far from Bangor, and was hospitably entertained and lodged by a gentleman having three daughters—two of whom in rich dresses entertained the distinguished stranger in the parlor, while one kept herself in the kitchen, assisting her mother in preparing the food and setting the table for tea, and after supper, in doing the work till it was finally completed, when she also joined her sisters in the parlor for the remainder of the evening. The next morning the same daughter was again early in the kitchen, while the other two were in the parlor. The gentleman, like Franklin, possessed a discriminating mind—was a close observer of the habits of the young ladies—

watched an opportunity to whisper something in the ear of the industrious one, and then left for a time, revisited the same family, and in about one year the young lady of the kitchen was conveyed to Boston, the wife of the same gentleman visitor, where she now presides at an elegant mansion.—The gentleman whose fortune she shares she won by a judicious deportment and well directed industry. So much for an industrious young lady.

—o—  
LYING.

Never tell a whole lie, or quarter of a lie, or any part of a lie. Many boys who know well enough what a sneaking, mean thing it is to lie, yet will twist the truth, or deceive a little bit. This is about as bad as a plump falsehood. If a boy does something wrong, either through ignorance, carelessness, or accident, and then tells one half truth and one half a lie about it, he might as well have told the whole untruth. Now see how the spirited, manly, true hearted, clear tongued boy will do, after an error. He resolutely determines to acknowledge it without being afraid of any body's anger—tell it just as it was. I never in my life knew any one to be injured by telling the truth in this way; but I have seen many a boy, and man too, who were looked upon with contempt, and thought poorly of, because they would tell sneaking lies, or quarter lies. The worst of untruths—those which are deliberately made up, stories about people, or little stories magnified into big ones—prove the teller of them to be a most worthless, impure, and mean person. The liar is indeed despicable both to God and good men.

On the other hand nothing is more beautiful than a strictly truth-telling person—one who never varies from the truth, who is open, candid, and above deceit. To become so, a boy should strive hard, should determine to become so, and he will become so. Besides, it is so easy always to speak the truth, and so very hard to arrange a very pleasant untruth, which even then will, in all likelihood, be found out, nine times out of ten.

—o—  
It is not only for the sick man, but the sick man's friends that the doctor comes. His presence is often as good for them as for the patient.

**PRESERVING LARD.**—Take the lard in the leaf, excluding all bloody or lean pieces, then salt it down as you would pork, using about as much salt as for pork. When needed for use try out enough to last a few weeks. This mode is communicated by a gentleman who has had much experience in this business, and he prefers this mode as the lard keeps perfectly sweet and good through the year.

—o—  
**CURE FOR POISON.**

If a person should be stung by a bee or any other insect, rub some spirits of turpentine on the place, and the pain will cease in a minute. It is said that the pain arising from the bite of a copperhead snake may be arrested in a few minutes by the continued application of this article; and from my own knowledge of the effects, in other cases, I have not the least doubt of it. The effect of poison is to contract the blood vessels, and prevent a free circulation; the natural consequence is pain and inflammation immediately. Spirits of turpentine, by their penetrating and expanding qualities soon overcome the difficulties. [Farmer's Cabinet.]

**CURE FOR ERYSIPELAS.**—Mrs. Mary Ann Pettit, of Penn township has furnished us the following receipt for erysipelas, which she assures us, she has never known to fail in any instance where it has been used in the early stages of the disease:

Take a quantity of sassafras bark from the root—boil it well—add weak lye—drain off the liquid—thicken it with wheat bran, (or shorts if bran cannot be had,) make a poultice of it, and apply to the parts affected, renewing it as often as it becomes dry. While using it, in the water that the patient may desire drink, add, a piece of salt-petre the size of pea to a pint of water.—[Terre Haute Express.]

—o—  
**ELDER SALVE FOR BURNS.**—After peeling off the outside bark of the elder, scrape off the green bark that is under, and stew it in lard till it is crisp; then strain it in a jar and put it away to heal a blister, or a burn or old sore.

**TRUTHS.**—A fat kitchen makes a lean will. If you would be rich think of saving as well as getting.

Whatever maintains one vice would train up two children.

Beware of little expenses; a small leak will sink a ship.

## AMERICAN TEAS.

The experiment now making in South Carolina of the raising the tea plant has proved partially successful, enough to show that the soil and climate of a portion of this country are suited to its growth. Whether its cultivation will yet be profitable, is a point to be decided by further and more extensive experiment. The prospect so far, is favorable to the supposition that it will, and that eventually the United States will grow its own tea, which would save an annual cost of several millions of dollars, now paid to China. The plant grows most luxuriantly in China and Japan, between the latitudes of 30 or 40 degrees, and in a country which presents features similar to those of our own country between the same latitudes. The attempts in Europe to cultivate the tea plant, have been failures; but in Brazil, a country between the Equator and the 30th degree of latitude, the experiment has been successful. We have received, says the Philadelphia Ledger, from Mr. Edward S. Sayers, the Vice Consul of that country at this port, three several specimens of Brazilian teas—hyson, gunpowder, and black teas—which in their dry state have the same flavor and taste as the Chinese. They show a degree of success in the cultivation and preparation of this plant highly creditable to the agricultural enterprise of the country; and affords an incentive to the perseverance of those who are attempting in the United States to bring the experiment to a successful issue.

## COMMERCIAL.

St. Louis, May 1, 1851.

**FLOUR**—Market firm. Superfine country brands a \$3 62 a \$3 85.

**WHEAT**—Heavy sales; 60 a 82 cts. per bushel, excluding sacks.

**CORN**—35 a 40 cents per bushel, sacks included.

**OATS**—34 a 38 cents per bushel. Demand and receipts light.

**BARLEY**—Good 62 a 65 cents; choice Kentucky 75 a 80 cents.

**PROVISIONS**.—Bulk meat, shoulders, \$5 00 a \$5 50; sides \$6; hams \$6 50 per 100 lbs. Lard 8 a 9 cents.—Pork, mess, \$12 50 a \$14 per bbl.

**BACON**—Clear sides 8½ a 9 a; shoulders 6 a 6½; hams 8½ a 9 cents.

**GROCERIES**—Sugar 5½ a 6½; molasses 33 a 34 cents; Rio coffee 10½ cents; G. A. salt \$1 25 a \$1 50 per bag.

**POTATOES**—45 a 55 cents per bushel. Dull.

**APPLES**—\$1 25 a \$1 75 per bushel.

**BUTTER**—Ohio roll 15 cents; good shipping 12; and country 10 a 12 cents per pound.

**CHEESE**—Western Reserve 7 a 8 cents; English dairy 11 a 12 cents per pound.

**EGGS**—7½ a 8 cents per dozen.

**SEEDS**—Clever \$7 75 a \$8 25; Timothy \$ 225 a \$2 50; Flaxseed \$1 60 per bushel.

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